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Tender

Provision of Independent Advocacy & Independent Visitor Services

Bradford Children & Families Trust

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-066046

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05ce4e

Published 16 October 2025, 4:30pm

Scope

Reference

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Description

Partners from Bradford Children and Families Trust and the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council are working together to review and develop Independent Visiting and Advocacy Services for Bradford's Looked-After Children or Care Leavers. Legislation imposes a duty on local authorities to make arrangements for the provision of advocacy and to appoint an independent visitor for children and young people intending to make representations under the Children Act 1989 (Adoption and Children Act 2002). As well as requiring an Independent Visiting and Advocate service to meet its statutory obligations, Bradford Children's and Families Trust wishes to work with the successful partner to adopt a casework approach which will utilise generic lessons learnt from advocates' work to develop more child-centred services. Children and young people eligible to receive a service are aged 0 to 21 years and up to 25 in the case of Care Leavers in full-time education. The Trust BCFT is seeking to work with providers who can demonstrate continual improvements in value for money achieved by deploying efficient and innovative

ways to meet the needs of the children and young people. The programme of services is divided into 2 Lots, which are as follows:

- Lot 1: Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children
- Lot 2: Independent Visitor Services

The contracts will commence from 1st April 2026, for an initial period of 2 years, with 1 option to extend by up to 12 months.

Total value (estimated)

- £810,000 excluding VAT
- £972,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2028
- Possible extension to 1 April 2029
- 3 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

One-year extension subject to performance.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85300000 - Social work and related services
- 85310000 - Social work services

Lot LOT-0001. Lot 1: Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children

Description

The central role of an advocate is to support children and young people to express their wishes and feelings to decision-makers, and ensure their rights are upheld. The Service will offer professional, high-quality independent advocacy to children and young people across all categories of need, who are users of Children's Social Care.

Lot value (estimated)

- £600,000 excluding VAT
- £720,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot LOT-0002. Lot 2: Independent Visitor Services

Description

An Independent Visitor's role is to visit and befriend a child in care who has little or no family time with their birth parents and would benefit from having an adult in their lives

who can give them support, advice and take an interest in their affairs. The objective of the Independent Visitor Service is to recruit, train, match, and manage a pool of volunteer Independent Visitors for the population of children in care covered within the scope of this specification.

Lot value (estimated)

- £210,000 excluding VAT
- £252,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot LOT-0001. Lot 1: Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children

Lot LOT-0002. Lot 2: Independent Visitor Services

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
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Submission

Enquiry deadline

10 November 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

20 November 2025, 11:00am

Submission address and any special instructions

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlentrance_s.asp?PID=99144&B=

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

9 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality Criteria	Quality	70%
Price	Price	30%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Bradford Children & Families Trust

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRBL-9974-CGBN

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Bradford

BD5 0QL

United Kingdom

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Region: UKE41 - Bradford

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government