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Planning

Soft Market Testing - Nottinghamshire County Council Assessment placement framework for children-in-care

Nottinghamshire County Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-076344

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Scope

Reference

DN798414

Description

Nottinghamshire County Council's Children's Placement and Commissioning team are conducting a soft market test exercise to explore the possibility of developing a framework to support assessment placements for children-in-care.

This exercise is designed to gather insights from providers about capacity, appetite, challenges, and innovative approaches to emergency and planned assessment provisions to support the long-term home finding process. It is also an opportunity to shape future commissioning strategies with Nottinghamshire County Council.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2031
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

Contract locations

- UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire
- UKF16 - South Nottinghamshire

Engagement

Engagement deadline

12 December 2025

Engagement process description

Provider feedback will help us better understand market conditions, refine our commissioning strategy, and ensure that any potential future framework is informed by provider experience. We value your input and expertise in the market, and welcome open

and honest conversations throughout the process. We will share a summary of our findings with all participants, which of course will be anonymised. Following this, we may hold a further provider forum if required.

To reiterate, this is not a procurement exercise but rather a data gathering exercise.

The Soft Market Testing exercise is being carried out on www.eastmidstenders.org - We kindly ask all providers to complete the response form attached to the market engagement exercise on the portal, and submit their responses by Friday 12th December 2025.

Your input is essential in helping us shape a responsive and sustainable emergency and assessment placement framework. Timely submissions will ensure your views are considered as part of our strategic planning and next steps.

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Nottinghamshire County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBCV-5152-BXBP

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Region: UKF16 - South Nottinghamshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government