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Tender

The PROVISION OF Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2026-2029

Cheshire East Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-077287

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05dc4b ([view related notices](#))

Published 26 November 2025, 2:04pm

Scope

Reference

C4956

Description

Cheshire East Council is seeking to commission a number of providers to deliver face to face school holiday activities for young people in Cheshire East. The holiday activities and food (HAF) programme is a 'Department for Education' (DfE) initiative enabling local authorities to coordinate a programme that provides school age young people between the ages of 4 - 16, and up to age 18 for eligible SEND young people, with healthy food and enriching activities during the summer and winter holidays.

These school holiday activities provide young people with:

- positive and safe things to do and places to go
- the opportunity to spend time with friends, to develop personally and socially, and reduce isolation

- the chance to undertake new activities and have new experiences

Cheshire East Council is flexible in its approach to service delivery, always seeking solutions that will offer quality outcomes and value for money and working with delivery partners who share our values and commitment to the success of this area of support. Cheshire East Council's Corporate Plan sets out clear priorities, and all providers will be required to contribute towards the corporate objectives and improve outcomes for the residents of Cheshire East.

Tenders will be accepted under two LOTS -

- LOT 1 is for providers who are offering general HAF provision.
- LOT 2 is restricted to applications for specialist provision e.g., SEND, Teenagers.

LOT 2 provides access to higher individual session costings to reflect the additional costing/provision that may be needed to support these groups of young people.

Providers who are providing inclusive SEND provision within their wider offer (incurring no additional costs), please select LOT 1.

For LOT 1 and LOT 2 provisions providers are expected to deliver the entirety of their programme in line with grant conditions. This includes exciting, enriching and physical activities for young people, which are expected to be face-to-face. Provisions need to be inclusive and meet additional needs where appropriate within the scope of their funding/expertise. Providers are also expected to provide nutritional education and food education in addition to supporting families with appropriate sign posting to other services and or making referrals where appropriate.

October and February half term provision:

Although the Department for Education has confirmed grant funding for the period April 2026 to March 2029, the associated grant conditions have not yet been received. Grant conditions may potentially allow, subject to funding availability and DfE approval, the delivery of a small-scale programme during the October and February half-term holidays. If approval for these periods is received, we would allow providers to offer programmes up to 10% of their total offer for each additional holiday.

Total value (estimated)

- £4,920,000 excluding VAT

- £5,904,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2032
- 6 years

Description of possible extension:

There are 3 x 12 months options to extend.

These extensions are subject to DfE funding and associated grant conditions, and will be awarded at the sole discretion of the Council.

The additional 3 years has been based on an assumption that DfE funding will continue for a further 3 years. However, this has not been suggested by the DfE and is therefore totally dependent on the DfE awarding grant funding beyond 2029.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 15894210 - School meals
- 55243000 - Children's holiday-camp services
- 85312000 - Social work services without accommodation

Contract locations

- UKD62 - Cheshire East

Lot 1. General HAF Provision

Description

General HAF Provision

Providers who are providing inclusive SEND provision within their wider offer (incurring no additional costs), please select LOT 1.

Further detail in APPENDIX A - Specification

Please refer to Procurement Documents by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Lot value (estimated)

- £3,420,000 excluding VAT
- £4,104,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2. Specialist HAF Provision.

Description

Specialist HAF Provision.

(This may include a Teen offer and/or a SEND offer)

LOT 2 provides access to higher individual session costings to reflect the additional costing/provision that may be needed to support these groups of young people.

Further detail in APPENDIX A - Specification

Please refer to Procurement Documents by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,500,000 excluding VAT
- £1,800,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Lot 1. General HAF Provision

Lot 2. Specialist HAF Provision.

Please refer to Procurement Documents (ITT Open Response Document) by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Technical ability conditions of participation

Lot 1. General HAF Provision

Lot 2. Specialist HAF Provision.

Please refer to Procurement Documents (ITT Open Response Document) by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

Particular suitability

Lot 1. General HAF Provision

Lot 2. Specialist HAF Provision.

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

19 December 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

9 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Tenders must be submitted at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/> Project ID DN796612

Unrestricted access to this opportunity is available via the Chest North West Portal, register for free at <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/> and express an interest in project ID DN796612

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

10 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type
Quality - 90%	Quality Questions Written responses and Pass/Fail questions Please refer to Procurement Documents (ITT Open Response Document) by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at https://www.the-chest.org.uk/	Quality

Name	Description	Type
Social Value - 10%	Social Value Question Written response: Please refer to Procurement Documents (ITT Open Response Document) by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at https://www.the-chest.org.uk/	Quality
Price - Pass/Fail	The Pricing Evaluation will be based on Pass/Fail Completion of Price and Proposal Schedule Please refer to Procurement Documents (ITT Open Response Document) by expressing an interest in Project ID DN796612 at https://www.the-chest.org.uk/	Price

Weighting description

- a) The Quality scores will be weighted, and all compliant bids will be ranked in order of overall quality scores.
- b) If a tenderer meets all the criteria in the Response Document, the Council will endeavour to offer an award for the value proposed by the provider i.e. the full range of activity sessions offered within tenders. However, the contract values offered will be determined by the Council's requirements for the objectives of this HAF programme, irrespective of the number of providers. The final decision on this will be at the absolute discretion of the Council.
- c) The Council reserves the right not to make an award to a bidder scoring less than 50% overall.
- d) The total estimated budget for this procurement is £4,920,000 over 6 years (subject to funding) with £2,460,000 for the initial 3-year period. It is possible that bids for this tender will in total, exceed this value. See f) below.
- e) All budget values in d) above are subject to confirmation of funding from the DfE
- f) In the event that the total value of all bids exceeds the budget envelope, the council will amend the number of sessions in line with the quality scores achieved and/or in line with the priorities laid out for this procurement.

- g) Session costs will be scrutinised to ensure value for money is achieved for the Council.
- h) The priority for the Council remains offering choice for children and families, as well as maximum geographical coverage.
- i) The overall objectives of this HAF programme are (in no particular order): -
 - i. Wide geographical coverage
 - ii. A wide range of activity types
 - iii. Universal provision
 - iv. SEND provision
 - v. TEEN provision

Other information

Payment terms

Please refer to Appendix B - Conditions of Contract

Description of risks to contract performance

October and February half term provision:

Although the Department for Education has confirmed grant funding for the period April 2026 to March 2029, the associated grant conditions have not yet been received. Grant conditions may potentially allow, subject to funding availability and DfE approval, the delivery of a small-scale programme during the October and February half-term holidays. If approval for these periods is received, we would allow providers to offer programmes up to 10% of their total offer for each additional holiday.

Also funding for the extension terms of April 2029 to March 2032 has not yet been

received or committed. There is a risk that this funding will not materialise and if it does materialise, the value could be less than estimated.

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

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Technical specifications to be met

<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

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Contracting authority

Cheshire East Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTWR-7124-XZXQ

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Crewe

CW12JZ

United Kingdom

Contact name: Tracy Roberts

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Email: procurementeast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/>

Region: UKD62 - Cheshire East

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government