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Tender

Create Talent Programme

North East Combined Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078141

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059976 ([view related notices](#))

Published 28 November 2025, 2:29pm

Scope

Reference

OPEN20252060

Description

The Create Talent Programme is an innovative, industry led skills programme that will support the North East's thriving creative sector, focusing on the music, arts, writing and publishing and the screen industry. The programme will play a key part in delivering the Mayor and Cabinet's mission 'Home to a growing and vibrant economy for all', providing our workforce with the right skills and training to build an inclusive and competitive economy.

The programme will provide sector-leading, inclusive and needs-led pathways for aspiring creatives, encouraging people of all ages from diverse backgrounds to aspire to a career in the creative sector. Alongside this, it will support freelancers and enterprises to develop high-level skills in creative practices. By focusing on identified skills needs and transferable skills, it will equip our freelance community with the fundamental skills to build, sustain and grow their practice as effective freelancers employed in the creative sector.

This procurement opportunity is seeking delivery partnerships led by creative industry specialists, provision must combine practical experience with theoretical knowledge and be delivered in real work environments (e.g., studios, writing hubs) alongside community venues.

In the partnership arrangement, a lead provider will be responsible for coordinating delivery across all partners, ensuring that the target number of participants is supported and that the allocated funding is utilised effectively and in line with programme objectives.

Total value (estimated)

- £3,950,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 6 February 2026 to 6 February 2029
- 3 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

Contract locations

- UKC14 - Durham CC

- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

28 December 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

9 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

www.open-uk.org

Open reference number: OPEN20252060

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

6 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	90%
Price	Price	10%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

<http://www.open-uk.org>

Documents available reference number OPEN20252060

Contracting authority

North East Combined Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJMR-6594-BRGH

The Lumen, St James' Boulevard

Newcastle Upon Tyne

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United Kingdom

Email: procurement@northeast-ca.gov.uk

Region: UKC22 - Tyneside

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government