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Tender

Advocacy Services

Blackburn with Darwen

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078456

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058a9c ([view related notices](#))

Published 1 December 2025, 12:19pm

Scope

Reference

139

Description

Advocacy Services

Lot 1 - All Age Advocacy Provision

Lot 2 - Independent Health Complaints

Total value (estimated)

- £1,300,000 excluding VAT
- £1,560,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85300000 - Social work and related services

Contract locations

- UKD41 - Blackburn with Darwen

Lot constraints

Maximum number of lots a supplier can bid for: 1

Maximum number of lots a supplier can be awarded: 1

Description of how multiple lots may be awarded:

Lots may be awarded to the same or different suppliers

Not the same for all lots

Contract dates are shown in Lot sections, because they are not the same for all lots.

Lot 1. All Age Advocacy Provision

Description

Provision of Advocacy Services to All Ages

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,200,000 excluding VAT
- £1,440,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

Option to extend for two additional one year periods, subject to service demand.

The contract price will be fixed for the initial three year period with potential uplifts in years four and five subject to budget availability and approval.

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2. Independent Health Complaints

Description

Provision of Independent Complaints Advocacy for NHS Complaints

Lot value (estimated)

- £100,000 excluding VAT
- £120,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

Option to extend for two additional one year periods, subject to service demand.

The contract price will be fixed for the initial three year period with potential uplifts in years four and five subject to budget availability and approval.

Same for all lots

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

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Lot 1. All Age Advocacy Provision

Lot 2. Independent Health Complaints

None

Technical ability conditions of participation

Lot 1. All Age Advocacy Provision

Lot 2. Independent Health Complaints

None

Particular suitability

Lot 1. All Age Advocacy Provision

Lot 2. Independent Health Complaints

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

15 December 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

31 December 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

All submissions must be done so via the Chest portal

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

26 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Method Statements	Quality	85.00%
Social Value	Quality	15.00%

Other information

Payment terms

Invoices to be submitted prior to payment, payment made quarterly.

Description of risks to contract performance

Key risks/issues

1. Political Risks

Policy changes: Shifts in government priorities (e.g. funding focus, devolution, or centralisation of advocacy provision) could affect long-term sustainability or service scope.

Local government restructuring: Changes in local authority boundaries or budgets may disrupt commissioning or alter responsibilities.

Stakeholder alignment: Differing agendas between local authorities, NHS bodies, and third-sector partners could create conflicts in service design or funding.

Public sector funding cuts: Political pressure to reduce spending could limit available budgets for advocacy services.

2. Economic Risks

Budget constraints: Reduced funding for public services can lead to under-procurement, affecting service quality and capacity.

Inflation and cost of living: Rising operational costs (e.g., staffing, travel, training, technology) could make delivery less viable within fixed contracts.

Market instability: If few providers exist, or if smaller charities merge or close, procurement competition and resilience decrease.

Value for money challenges: Balancing quality advocacy with affordability may pressure providers to reduce staff pay or training.

3. Social Risks

Changing demographics: Growing elderly population, complex needs, and increasing mental health concerns across all ages could drive demand beyond capacity.

Inequalities in access: Risk that certain groups (e.g., people with learning disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, rural residents) might be underserved.

Public awareness: Low awareness of advocacy rights can lead to underuse or inconsistent referrals.

Workforce challenges: Recruiting and retaining skilled advocates, particularly in rural or high-cost areas, may be difficult.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=d744b708-aace-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

Method Statements for Lot 1

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=d68017c7-adce-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

Method Statements for Lot 2

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=d23035d9-adce-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

All Age Advocacy Pricing Schedule

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=775649eb-adce-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

Independent Health Complaints Pricing Schedule

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=b14946fd-adce-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

ITT Document

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=80e46f0f-aece-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

PSQ Document

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=8679a31b-aece-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

Service Specification

<https://procontract.due-north.com//FileUploads/ViewAttachment?attachmentId=641ae233-aece-f011-813a-005056b64545&entityTypeId=b5c83c15-39cd-480e-b232-0e94cac4b464&attachmentTypeId=FtsDocument>

Advocacy Services Contract

Contracting authority

Blackburn with Darwen

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYGR-1856-CVXM

10 Duke Street

Blackburn

BB2 1DH

United Kingdom

Contact name: Hollie Pearson

Email: hollie.pearson@blackburn.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/>

Region: UKD41 - Blackburn with Darwen

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government