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Tender

Fitness to Practise Partner Training Programme

Social Work England

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079334

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0589bd ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 December 2025, 12:43pm

Scope

Reference

SWE10553

Description

Social Work England intends to procure a suitably qualified and experienced training provider to design, deliver and continuously improve a comprehensive training programme for Adjudicators, Legal Advisers (Partners) and Case Examiners involved in Fitness to Practise (FtP) decision-making. The programme will support newly appointed decision-makers through mandatory induction training and provide ongoing annual refresher training for existing cohorts, ensuring consistency, legal soundness and quality across all FtP decisions.

The appointed provider will be required to develop, implement and deliver training covering the statutory and regulatory framework applicable to Social Work England's adjudication and case examination functions. This includes but is not limited to: the Fitness to Practise Rules 2019 (as amended), the Social Workers Regulations 2018 (as amended), relevant regulatory case law, approaches to impairment, preliminary issues, procedural fairness, managing unrepresented registrants, avoiding bias, the realistic

prospect test, and drafting clear and reasoned decisions. The training must incorporate interactive and practice-based learning, with anonymised examples where appropriate.

Training for FtP Partners will be delivered remotely. Training for Case Examiners will be delivered through a blend of remote, hybrid or in-person sessions, including an initial two-day programme. The contract includes the development of webinars, e-learning modules, virtual workshops, peer-led learning forums and reflective practice groups to broaden access through Social Work England's digital learning platform. All training must incorporate principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, including relevant legal duties, unconscious bias mitigation and cultural competence.

The provider will collaborate closely with Social Work England's Fitness to Practise, Legal and ED&I teams in planning, reviewing and refining the training offer. They will also be responsible for supplying training materials, pre-reading, recordings and an annual programme of delivery. Ongoing evaluation and quarterly performance reporting will be required, alongside participation in continuous improvement activity informed by appeals, Professional Standards Authority learning and internal quality assurance.

The initial contract term will be three years, with the option to extend for a further two years.

Total value (estimated)

- £354,167 excluding VAT
- £425,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 March 2026 to 15 March 2029
- Possible extension to 15 March 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

The authority may, at its sole discretion, exercise extension options of up to an additional two years (in one or more increments), contingent upon ongoing requirements and acceptable contractor performance.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The contract may include optional additional services proposed by the supplier, which the authority may take up at its discretion if deemed to meet organisational needs. These optional services are not guaranteed and will be subject to agreement following award.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services
- 80500000 - Training services

Contract locations

- UKE32 - Sheffield

Participation

Technical ability conditions of participation

Social Work England will apply the following conditions of participation within the single-stage procurement process. Equivalent qualifications, experience, or standards will be accepted.

Professional Qualifications and Experience

Tenderers should propose a lead trainer (or equivalent key personnel) who holds a recognised legal qualification (such as solicitor, barrister, or chartered legal executive), or an equivalent professional legal qualification, together with a minimum of five (5) years' post-qualification experience or equivalent level of professional experience. Evidence should be provided.

Experience in Health and Social Care Regulatory Work

Tenderers should demonstrate experience working within, or providing services to, a health or social care regulator or an equivalent regulatory environment. Evidence of relevant roles, projects, or clients should be provided.

Experience Delivering Training to Legal or Regulatory Decision-Makers

Tenderers should demonstrate experience in designing and delivering training for legal or regulatory decision-makers (e.g., adjudicators, case examiners, panel members, legal advisers) or equivalent audiences in comparable regulatory or legal contexts. Evidence should be provided.

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

15 December 2025, 11:59pm

Tender submission deadline

19 December 2025, 5:30pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/socialworkengland/aspx/Home>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

21 January 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 November 2030

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Whole Life Cost	Price	30.00%
Relevant Experience	Quality	14.00%
Training Design and Content	Quality	14.00%

Name	Type	Weighting
Learning Outcomes and Impact	Quality	14.00%
Understanding of Requirements	Quality	10.50%
Quality Assurance	Quality	10.50%
Commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Accessibility (Social Value)	Quality	7.00%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Changes to Social Work England's rules, regulations, or Fitness to Practise procedures could result in training content becoming outdated or outside the provider's current area of expertise.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Reduced tendering period

Yes

Qualifying planned procurement notice - minimum 10 days

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/socialworkengland.aspx/Home>

Full tender documents are available to all suppliers via Social Work England's e-procurement website.

Contracting authority

Social Work England

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZYZ-1666-HXBQ

1 North Bank, Blonk Street

Sheffield

S3 8JY

United Kingdom

Contact name: Andrew Bailey

Email: commercial.team@socialworkengland.org.uk

Website: <https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk>

Region: UKE32 - Sheffield

Organisation type: Public authority - central government