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Planning

Procurement of Legal Investigation and Advocacy Service in Fitness to Practise

Social Work England

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080027

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d84e ([view related notices](#))

Published 5 December 2025, 10:38am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

The scope of this requirement has been expanded to provide additional context.

Scope

Reference

SWE10547

Description

Introduction - Fitness to Practise

Social Work England are looking for two Suppliers to deliver the following aims:

1. Conducting further investigation and preparing cases for Fitness to Practise hearings or meetings.
2. Undertaking pre-hearing case management procedures in accordance with agreed performance targets and in collaboration with other parties to the hearing.

We are looking for up to two Suppliers to prepare cases for Fitness to Practise hearings or meetings and to ensure the presentation of cases before a panel of independent adjudicators.

As part of our duty to protect the public, if a social worker falls seriously short of the standards expected of them, we can either remove them from the register or restrict what they can do professionally. These powers, given to us by Parliament, cover all registered social workers across both child, family and adult social care.

A social workers' fitness to practise may be found impaired for a number of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Conduct
- Competence
- Health
- Caution, Conviction or determination by another regulator
- Not having the necessary knowledge of English

When a service user, member of the public, employers or other public body has a concern about the standard of a social worker's practise, they can raise this with Social Work England.

We will undertake to investigate serious matters which may pose a risk to public protection or public confidence in the profession and take action to restrict a social

worker's practice in circumstances where it is necessary to do so.

The successful Bidders will prepare cases for a fitness to practise hearings or meetings and to present cases before Social Work England's adjudicators.

Total value (estimated)

- £34,083,333.33 excluding VAT
- £40,900,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2029
- Possible extension to 31 May 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

Up to two extensions for 12 months each has been allocated.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

5 January 2026

Enquiry deadline

23 February 2026, 11:59pm

Submission type

Tenders

Tender submission deadline

28 February 2026, 11:59pm

Submission address and any special instructions

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

1 May 2026

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Contracting authority

Social Work England

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZYZ-1666-HXBQ

1 North Bank, Blonk Street

Sheffield

S3 8JY

United Kingdom

Contact name: Wayne Kehoe

Email: tenders@socialworkengland.org.uk

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

Region: UKE32 - Sheffield

Organisation type: Public authority - central government