

**Cabinet Member**

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

**Procurement Title**

Lancashire Fostering Framework Agreement

**Procurement Option**

OJEU – Open Tender

**New or Existing Provision**

Existing. Current contract end date 04/04/2018

**Estimated Annual Contract Value and Funding Arrangements**

Estimated annual value is £20,569,000. This estimate is based on the 2017/18 agency fostering budget.

Potential total contract value: £82,276,000.

The proposed framework value is approximately 15% higher than the current framework value, taking into account increases to the looked after children population, agency fees, annual uplifts and the additional specialist lot.

**Contract Duration**

Initial period of 2 years with an option to extend the framework by any number of defined periods provided that the total framework period does not exceed 4 years.

**Lotting**

The tender will consist of two Lots:

- Lot 1 - All Age Groups, Parent/Child and Solo placements
- Lot 2 - Step Down into Fostering

**Evaluation**

<b>Quality Criteria 60%</b>	<b>Financial Criteria 40%</b>
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Social Value will account for 10% of the quality criteria and the objective will primarily focus on creating employment opportunities for Lancashire residents.

**Contract Detail**

The purpose of this Framework Agreement is to support the Council in fulfilling its sufficiency duty in relation to accommodation for looked after children and to improve the overall outcomes for these children. The Agreement will assist the Council to improve the availability of suitable foster care placements at the right time and right location, delivering the right support, ensuring that Lancashire's Children Looked After:

- Receive the best care possible to meet their needs
- Are effectively supported to improve their individual outcomes
- Their welfare is promoted and they are effectively safeguarded.

The Purchasers policy on the provision of finding and securing suitable fostering placements includes;

- The supply of placements and services using in-house foster carers
- The purchase of placements and services from Independent Fostering

Agencies (IFAs).

For Lot 1, Framework providers will be allocated to one of three framework tiers, with tier 1 offering best quality and value for money. Call-offs from the framework will be advertised amongst the Tier 1 providers in the first instance, followed by tiers 2 and 3 respectively.

Lot 2 will have two tiers. Tier 1 will be a list of approximately 3-5 preferred providers who will attend forums to discuss upcoming complex placements, after which they will be invited to bid for said placements. The second tier will be a reserve list of providers who may be incorporated into tier 1 depending on the engagement and uptake of placements from the preferred providers.

The overarching objectives of the Framework Agreement are to ensure that suitable and safe fostering placements can be made within appropriate timescales and to ensure the child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of the fostering process.

In delivering services under the Framework Agreement, the Provider will achieve the following overall outcomes in relation to children placed with their carers:

- Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted
- Individual children's outcomes are improved, and
- Children's basic need for good parenting is met.

<b>Cabinet Member</b> Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools			
<b>Procurement Title</b> Lancashire Break Time			
<b>Procurement Option</b> OJEU – Open Tender			
<b>New or Existing Provision</b> Existing. Current contract end date 24/01/2018			
<b>Estimated Annual Contract Value and Funding Arrangements</b> Annual value is estimated at £1,020,000.  Potential total contract value: £3,060,000.  The proposed framework value is approximately the same as the current framework value.			
<b>Contract Duration</b> Initial period of 1 year with an option to extend the framework by any number of defined periods provided that the total framework period does not exceed 3 years.  The proposed framework term has been recommended to provide flexibility as the SEND service formulates a longer term strategy around short break provision, which will involve consultations with various parties and remodelling based around in-house short break services.			
<b>Lotting</b> There will be 12 district lots.			
<b>Evaluation</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="207 1198 1018 1254"> <tr> <td><b>Quality Criteria 70%</b></td><td><b>Financial Criteria 30%</b></td></tr> </table> <p>Social Value will account for 10% of the quality criteria and will focus on promoting training and employment opportunities in Lancashire, as well as building the capacity and sustainability of the voluntary and community sector.</p>		<b>Quality Criteria 70%</b>	<b>Financial Criteria 30%</b>
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<b>Contract Detail</b> Lancashire Break Time provides opportunities for non-assessed children and young people (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) aged 4-18 who are unable to access universal services, to participate in social, cultural and/or leisure activities independently of their families, whilst their unpaid parent carer(s) receive a break from the caring process.  The service will be available to service users who live in Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool).  The current framework was designed to be commissioned during school holidays only. As the current framework has delivered an estimated 25% saving compared to having no framework in place as per the previous arrangement, the new framework will allocate a proportion of funding to term-time provision of short breaks. This supports the Council's short break strategy and national guidance requiring that carers can access short-breaks on a regular basis.			

Framework providers will be allocated to each district. The number of framework providers appointed in any given district will be proportional to that district's SEND client group, for example a district such as Burnley with a higher number of SEND CYP will be allocated more provision and funding compared to Ribble Valley with a much smaller number of SEND CYP. The provision is advertised on the Council's website and service users / carers can commission placements directly.

The main outcomes of the service are as follows:

For Parents and Carers:

- Parents/carers feel enabled to cope with their caring role
- Parents feel better equipped in their parenting role
- Parents/carers experience a better quality of life
- Parents feel able to trust carer
- Families feel less isolated
- Families are aware of and are enabled to access health, education and social care services.

For CYP:

- CYP are comfortable and safe
- CYP are enabled to socialise with peers and develop their socialisation skills
- CYP have an improved quality of life
- CYP experience improved emotional wellbeing
- CYP develop increased life skills
- Improved family relationships and thus a reduction in family breakdowns and risk of harm to CYP

<b>Cabinet Member</b> Leader of the County Council																							
<b>Procurement Title</b> Supply and Delivery of Cleaning Materials																							
<b>Procurement Option</b> OJEU – Open Tender																							
<b>New or Existing Provision</b> Existing. Current contract end date 31/01/2018																							
<b>Estimated Annual Contract Value and Funding Arrangements</b> Estimated annual value is £730,000  Potential total contract value: £2,920,000.  The annual value of this contract is higher than previously due to the addition of Blackburn with Darwen Council's requirements within the contract scope (approx. £102,000 per annum drawn from their own budget), the addition of Specialist Cleaning Equipment as an additional Lot (approx. £20,000 per annum), and overall increases to prices over the last four years in the marketplace.																							
<b>Contract Duration</b> Initial period of 2 years with an option to extend the contract by any number of defined periods provided that the total contract period does not exceed 4 years.																							
<b>Lotting</b> The tender will consist of five Lots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 1 – Direct Delivery of Cleaning Materials</li> <li>• Lot 2 – Bulk Supply of Chemicals</li> <li>• Lot 3 – Bulk Supply of Paper</li> <li>• Lot 4 – Bulk Supply of Polythene Bags</li> <li>• Lot 5 – Bulk Supply of Cleaning Materials</li> <li>• Lot 6 – Specialist Cleaning Equipment</li> </ul>																							
<b>Evaluation</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lot</th> <th>Quality Criteria and (Social Value weighting)</th> <th>Financial Criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>60 (10)</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>30 (5)</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>30 (5)</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>30 (5)</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>30 (5)</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>30 (5)</td> <td>70</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Lot	Quality Criteria and (Social Value weighting)	Financial Criteria	1	60 (10)	40	2	30 (5)	70	3	30 (5)	70	4	30 (5)	70	5	30 (5)	70	6	30 (5)	70
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Social Value will primarily focus on environmental aspects.																							
<b>Contract Detail</b> The purpose of these contracts is to ensure that the Council receives best value with regards to the cleaning materials purchased by all Council sites.  Lot 1 concerns the direct delivery of cleaning materials to all Council sites for their consumption as required. It is also the intention to include Blackburn with Darwen																							

Council within the scope of this Lot at their request. Consolidating the buying power of both councils may lead to tenderers submitting highly competitive tender prices.

Lots 2 - 6 are for the bulk delivery of various categories of cleaning supplies to one location (the Council's Building Cleaning Service located at County Hall, Preston). These supplies are used by the Building Cleaning Service as consumables for their own traded service contracts.

As Lots 2-6 are logistically straightforward for suppliers and the contract values range from £20-70k per annum, they represent an ideal opportunity for small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to tender and supply the Council. The strategy will therefore be to limit the number of Lots that any tenderer can win to one or two Lots only, whilst having a slimmed-down tender questionnaire and evaluation criteria in favour of price for Lots 2-6.