

Contracts

Did you know?

- Children's Wellbeing operates a **range of contract types**, including 'spot-purchase', 'block', and 'framework agreements'
 - Some of the **recent services purchased** under contract include:
 - Chairs of Adoption & Fostering Panels
 - Social Care Emergency Duty Team
 - Social Care Support Team
 - Independent advocacy & independent visitors
 - Fostering, residential and supported living placements
 - Domestic Violence Safeguarding Officer
 - Short breaks for children with disabilities
 - Community equipment
 - Children's Centres & nurseries
 - Counselling
 - Leisure passes for Looked After Children
 - Contracts are for **fixed periods**, some with the option to extend for 1 or 2 further years. **Contracts cannot be 'rolled-forward'**.
 - Contract **quality and performance** is regularly reviewed, and often involve a **Council 'technical expert'** from a relevant service area
- We need **your feedback** about the quality of services provided to the children and families you work with
 - **We need your help to reflect the voice of the child** in contract monitoring

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Process in a nutshell

- Contracts are normally awarded as a result of a **strategic commissioning exercise** that will identify what's needed and set priorities
- The Council operates a set of **corporate procurement rules** for the purchase of goods and services. There are different rules **depending on the total value of any contract over its life-time:**
 - Up to £1000 – no requirement for formal tender, but officers must be able to demonstrate value for money
 - £1,001 to £10,000 at least 2 formal quotes required
 - £10,001 to £50,000 at least 3 formal quotes required
 - £50,000+ formal tender required
- Start-to-finish **can take up to 6-months**, from initially identifying a gap in service to awarding a contract and the start of service delivery, **so early planning is essential!**
- There is a lot of support available to help people through the process, but having some **technical expertise and input** in the design of the service, procurement process, and contract monitoring is also essential
- To discuss any potential contracting needs, please contact the contracts team on ext. 01432 38 3073/3619 or email childrenscontracts@herefordshire.gov.uk