

Aberdeenshire Council (the “Council”) is required by Scottish Government, under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, to provide a funded placement of 1140 hours per year to all eligible 2 year olds and all children aged from 3 to those not yet attending Primary School, effective from August 2020.

In accordance with The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, Regulation 74, the Council intend to establish a contract to secure external providers who can supplement the Council’s internal early learning and childcare provision. The proposed Framework will be for 3 years, with an option to extend for an additional year. There will also be options for Tenderers to apply to the Framework every 3 months.

The Funding Follows the Child approach places choice in parents’ and carers’ hands allowing them to access their child’s funded entitlement with a range of ELC providers, therefore the Council are seeking to set up a Flexible Framework for the provision of early learning and childcare services under the Light Touch Rules contained within the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

All providers who apply and meet the national standards, legislation, the Council's procedural requirements as set out in the Invitation to Tender and accept the rates and contract terms set out by the Council shall be accepted to deliver funded provision through the Flexible Framework.

All applications are to be sent to the [1140fundedprovidercontract@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:1140fundedprovidercontract@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) email address. Ideally, if these applications could be completed electronically, rather than scanned and sent. This will ensure that the tender process is kept as efficient as possible.

The application process will open from 20<sup>th</sup> February and the initial review of applications will take 6 weeks with applications being reviewed thereafter on an ongoing basis.