

The procurement process for the **Framework Agreement for Improvement Associates working on Health and Social Care Integration** went live on the **28 January 2016**.

The [Framework Agreement Notice is on the Public Contracts Scotland Portal](#). You will need to login or [register as a supplier](#) to view the full Invitation to Tender document, record your interest and submit your tender response.

Closing date for tender applications **12 noon on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Across Scotland, the NHS, council services and third sector are working together to provide even more co-ordinated and streamlined services for people. Sometimes, this is referred to as the 'integration of health and social care' and the move to integrated services is required under new Scottish Government legislation, which comes into force in April 2016.

In response, work is underway to combine the expertise of three areas of improvement support – the Joint Improvement Team in Scottish Government, the Quality Efficiency and Efficiency Support Team in Scottish Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland's (HIS) Safety and Improvement Directorate – into one new improvement resource to support the new integrated services.

This will unify effort and make it simpler to co-ordinate an integrated improvement support service that helps health and social care services across Scotland to deliver better outcomes for their populations. This new integrated resource will be up and running by April 2016.

As part of the new offer, a Framework Agreement for Improvement Associates is being commissioned. The purpose of the Improvement Associate Framework is to support local and national priorities by providing a flexible, national resource for improvement support. The Improvement Associates will directly contribute to the on-going work of partners in health and social care partnerships and NHS Boards; helping partners achieve the [nine national health and wellbeing outcomes](#) through the delivery of integration and quality improvement across health and social care.

The new integrated improvement resource is part of HIS. A tender exercise is currently being planned and an invitation to tender is therefore being undertaken by HIS under its finance and procurement terms and conditions.

Where HIS tenders for goods or services, HIS takes the same approach as all other public sector bodies in Scotland by advertising opportunities through the Scottish Government [Public Contract Scotland](#) advertising portal. You can view the [Framework Agreement for Improvement Associates Notice](#) on the advertising portal. You will need to [register on the portal as a supplier](#), if you have not already, to access the Invitation to Tender Document, record your interest and submit your tender response. Registering on the portal will also allow you to find out about other tender opportunities available. For further help and support with the Public Contract Scotland website please contact their Customer services through the [website](#) or by phone (0800 222 9003).

The portal gives free access to contract opportunities in Scotland and will allow you to see details of contracts with Scottish Local Authorities, NHS Scotland, the Scottish Government, Agencies and NDPBs, Higher and Further Education and Emergency Services by browsing the available contracts.