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Contract

## **ASD Post-Diagnostic Psychoeducational Resource for Parents/Carers and Young People in Greater Essex**

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board  
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board  
NHS Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-000635

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03642d

Published 10 January 2023, 10:55am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Road

Basildon

SS14 3HG

#### **Email**

[amy.wilson@attain.co.uk](mailto:amy.wilson@attain.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKH3 - Essex

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Severalls Business Park, Aspen House, Stephenson Rd,

Colchester

CO4 9QR

**Email**

[amy.wilson@attain.co.uk](mailto:amy.wilson@attain.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH3 - Essex

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://suffolkandnortheastessex.icb.nhs.uk/>

**I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Charter House Parkway Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire

AL8 6JL

**Email**

[amy.wilson@attain.co.uk](mailto:amy.wilson@attain.co.uk)

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH35 - West Essex

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk/>

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract involves joint procurement

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

ASD Post-Diagnostic Psychoeducational Resource for Parents/Carers and Young People in Greater Essex

Reference number

ACE-0650-2022-MSE

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85100000 - Health services

### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

### **II.1.4) Short description**

Following a compliant negotiated procedure without prior publication, the Authority has made a decision to award a contract to KIDS for the design, development, digitisation and pilot implementation of two psychoeducational resources, across Essex, Southend, and Thurrock. These will be evidence-based therapeutic interventions, that provide information and support to better understand and cope with autism for CYP and for parents and carers of CYP, following diagnosis. The contract commences 23rd January 2023, expiring 31st March 2026, at an aggregate value of £398,000.

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £398,000

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 48190000 - Educational software package
- 48500000 - Communication and multimedia software package
- 72211000 - Programming services of systems and user software
- 72212500 - Communication and multimedia software development services
- 85140000 - Miscellaneous health services
- 85323000 - Community health services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

Main site or place of performance

North east Essex, West Essex, Mid and South Essex

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

The Contracting Authority(s) (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”) for this Due Diligence are NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB), NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB and NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB.

The Authority has awarded a contract to KIDS for the design, development, digitisation and pilot implementation of two psychoeducational resources, across Essex, Southend, and Thurrock. These will be evidence-based therapeutic interventions, that provide information and support to better understand and cope with autism for CYP and for parents and carers of CYP, following diagnosis.

The project aims to deliver the national and local ambition to design and implement a psychoeducational resource which:

- Provides information about autism as a diagnosis.
- Helps people come to terms with their diagnosis.
- Identifies additional coping strategies for everyday challenges (such as managing difficult sensory environments or stigma).
- Provides opportunities to engage with other autistic people who may have had similar experiences.
- Helps the parent/carer or young person feel empowered in living with their diagnosis.

Is available to parents/carers and young people on an ongoing basis, to be accessible as and when required.

The content will be evidence based, co-produced with families and professionals, and include a range of topics including financial advice, relational peer support, relationship management, emotional adjustment, long term stress management, resilience, stigma protection etc.

Successful delivery will require a combination of expertise, skills and experience in terms of the digital sphere, alongside experience of working with children, young people and families with SEND.

The contract commences 23rd January 2023 for a period of c. 39 months, expiring 31st March 2026, at an aggregate value of £398,000.

The contract is awarded as a result of a due diligence process undertaken as a negotiation without prior publication, under Regulation 32 (1) (a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("PCR 2015") (as amended The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020), following an unsuccessful open tender procedure published 16 September 2022 and conducted in compliance with the same Regulations (2022/S 000-026063).

The due diligence process and intention to award was supported by a Voluntary Ex Ante Standstill Notice published in Find a Tender Service on 30th November 2022 (2022-043964), the standstill for which expired midnight on 5th January 2023.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

See VI.3) Additional information.

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- No tenders or no suitable tenders/requests to participate in response to open procedure

Explanation:

The Authority is lawfully permitted to make this award under Regulation 32 (1) (a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("PCR 2015") (as amended The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020) (the Regulations).

The NHS Long Term Plan is committed to improving the assessment and support of children and young people (CYP) who may be autistic. To help achieve this, Contracting Authorities from health and care across Southend, Essex and Thurrock successfully secured investment from NHS England to carry out a project which delivers innovation to autism diagnostic and post-diagnostic pathways for children and young people.

A decision was made to undertake market engagement and a procurement exercise to seek a suitable provider who could support them to achieve their aims with the funding available.

The Authority issued an Invitation to Tender on 16th September in connection with the competitive procurement of an autism spectrum disorder post-diagnostic psychoeducational resource for parents and carers and young people in Essex. The process was conducted under the 'non-light touch' regime within the Regulations.

To ensure that the provider market was given an equal opportunity to fully understand the requirements of the procurement, a market engagement event was publicised on 30th August 2022 in Find a Tender Service and Contracts Finder and held via MS Teams Webinar on 12th September 2022 at 13:00 - 14:30pm. The event informed all potential bidders of the service, procurement principles, processes, and next steps.

The tender deadline expired at 12:00 noon on 19th October 2022 and unfortunately, on this occasion, the procurement exercise resulted in no tenders being received.

The Authority took a decision to conduct some further market engagement with interested and suitable providers (both those who did and did not express interest in the original tender), with an aim to run a negotiated procedure using the same Specification, to select

a suitable provider, under Regulation 32 (1) (a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. As such the Authority contacted several organisations to understand what their potential interest was in working with us on this next phase of our project to ensure the Authority did not lose access and have to return NHSE funding, which is an outcome that is unacceptable to the ICBs and our partners on the project team, and one which we wished to avoid.

A series of 1-2-1 meetings were held, followed by a scored presentation to arrive at the award decision based on highest technical (quality) score. Thereafter a due diligence exercise was undertaken with the Preferred Bidder (utilising the Crown Commercial Service's standard selection questionnaire) to ensure they are suitably qualified and experienced, supporting the award decision being made.

The Authority has awarded the contract to Kids Charity after expiry of a standstill period of 10 days (accommodating the three bank holidays in the interim period), concluding midnight on 5th January 2023.

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

#### **IV.2) Administrative information**

##### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2022/S 000-026063](#)

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### **Section V. Award of contract**

#### **Title**

ASD Post-Diagnostic Psychoeducational Resource for Parents/Carers and Young People in Greater Essex

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

#### **V.2) Award of contract**

##### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

21 December 2022

##### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

KIDS Charity

7-9 Elliott's Place

London

N1 8HX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

National registration number

275936

The contractor is an SME

No

**V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot: £398,000

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**Section VI. Complementary information**

**VI.3) Additional information**

When advertised in September 2022, the Authority was looking to appoint a single Preferred Bidder to manage all aspects of the Service. As such, a Lotting Strategy was deemed inappropriate as it risked creation of unnecessary fragmentation and complexity.

Accordingly, the service was procured as a single contract awarded to a single Preferred Bidder.

The requirement to which this procurement related, fall within the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020) (the "Regulations").

As previously indicated in the Contract Notice, and the Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency Notice, the Authority may wish to expand the Services during the lifetime of the contract ("Contract modification(s)"). To this end, interested parties should be aware that after the award of contract, there is a possibility that the successful Bidder may be offered a variation(s) to the contract in accordance with Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020), in the potential circumstances and or situations as previously communicated in the FTS Contract Notice and ITT Process Overview:

1. Appropriate alignment of the Service / Contract because of changes stipulated either nationally by NHSE or required locally by the Authority or its partners in the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System (MSE ICS), either to expand the service provision to include complementary Services, or to align the service to changes in need from the eligible service user population.
2. As a result of unanticipated changes in demand for the Service, to support the successful Bidder to evolve the service slowly and sustainability to ensure successful implementation, and to ensure service safety and positive service user experience is maintained.
3. To enable the Authority to extend the contract for an additional duration, to accommodate any necessary and ongoing Subscription or License Fees that may be required as a result of any digital solution developed by the Preferred Bidder, in relation to this procurement and contract award.
4. Where additional funding becomes available to the Authority for delivery of service requirements that are similar and or complementary to the Service already included in the Specification, at any given time, and do not modify the overall nature of the contract and or for delivery of the Service over a longer duration in order to support sustainability of the Service and thorough evaluation of its effectiveness across the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Transforming Care Partnership (SET TCP). Such expansion would be by the addition of services commissioned by the Authority or its partners across the MSE ICS, where the business case provides objective evidence that contract variation is the most appropriate course of action, taking account of one or more of the following considerations; service safety, financial and economic impact, innovation, patient and public acceptability, impact on health inequalities, strategic alignment with National/Regional/Local strategic priorities, ability to improve multiple pathways, positive

contribution to improved supply / improving service responsiveness, patient experience and health economy impact.

5. Where any forthcoming changes in public procurement law for health care and non-healthcare services allows for such

#### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

##### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court of Justice of England and Wales

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

##### **VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Unit 10 Phoenix Court, Christopher Martin Road, Basildon

Essex

SS14 3HG

Email

[amy.wilson@attain.co.uk](mailto:amy.wilson@attain.co.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/about/boards/integrated-care-board/>