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Contract

2023 Social Care Self Directed Support and ISF Management Service

Aberdeenshire Council

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001019

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-038dac

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Aberdeenshire Council

Woodhill House, Westburn Road

Aberdeen

AB16 5GB

Email

claire.j.scott@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1467539600

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM50 - Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00232

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

2023 Social Care Self Directed Support and ISF Management Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85300000 - Social work and related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

A locally based service to provide advice and information to members of the public regarding all aspects of Self-Directed Support,

including information about the legislation and the four options available under The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act

2013; and to provide an Individual Service Fund management service.

The Individual Service Fund management service will be accessible to eligible individuals that choose an Individual Service Fund under Option 2 to fund all or some of their care and support package. This service will include the management of prepaid card accounts.

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: £1,882,632

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85300000 - Social work and related services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM50 - Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire

Main site or place of performance

Aberdeenshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

A locally based Self Directed Support service that includes:

- a sign-posting facility; the provision of information, support and advice; participation in the support planning process; assistance to those supported persons that choose to employ staff to do so effectively and lawfully; and including support to the individual to access legal and payroll support
- an integrated Individual Service Fund management service that will include the management of prepaid card accounts

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Form of procedure

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

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition is justified under regulation 33(1)(b)(ii) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 because competition is absent for technical reasons.

The Council issued a Prior Information Notice issued via PCS which did not identify alternative economic operators able to evidence the technical capacity to deliver the integrated individual fund management service of the form being procured to meet the service requirement of the Council. The Council's service delivery model, including the individual support fund management service and prepaid account facility, is bespoke and tailored to the needs of its users.

The lack of a reasonable alternative or substitute is reflective of regulator findings that since the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013[3] was enacted, Self Directed Support (SDS) has been implemented inconsistently across the country; and that Aberdeenshire Council has implemented a 'bespoke approach to delivering Option 2', with a uniqueness of supply that is recognised independently to be a 'well designed system working well and the model most in the spirit of the Act' .

This notice of intent to award is made with reference to Chapter 3 Particular Procurement Regimes, Section 7 Social and Other Specific Services. This procurement responds primarily to the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. It is relevant to the integration agenda and the 'Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014'; and recognises Council responsibilities under Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act. The Scottish Government guidance on Specific Considerations and Rules for Care and Support Contracts has been followed, and light touch provisions are determined to be applicable. In relation to the award the Council has taken into account the need to ensure quality, continuity, accessibility, affordability, availability and comprehensiveness of the services; the specific needs of different categories of users, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; the involvement and empowerment of users' and innovation. (76.9)

The Council intends to award a contract to Cornerstone Community Care and considers that award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition is justified under regulation 33(1)(b)(ii) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 as competition is absent for technical reasons.

IV.1.11) Main features of the award procedure

Direct award

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2022/S 000-035476](#)

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 December 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 0

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Cornerstone Community Care

Centurion Court, North Esplanade West

Aberdeen

AB11 5QH

Telephone

+44 1224256000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,882,632

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(SC Ref:787611)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Aberdeen

Country

United Kingdom