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Planning

Intention to Follow Most Suitable Provider (MSP) Process - Embedding Smoking Cessation In NHS Talking Therapies

Hampshire County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-001090

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-06010a

Published 7 January 2026, 2:01pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Hampshire County Council

The Castle, High Street

Winchester

SO238UJ

Contact

Chloe Wells

Email

strategic.procurement@hants.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ3 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://hants.gov.uk>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/hampshire.aspx/Home>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Intention to Follow Most Suitable Provider (MSP) Process - Embedding Smoking Cessation In NHS Talking Therapies

Reference number

AS28601

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85121270 - Psychiatrist or psychologist services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Intended Approach Notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 or Public Contract Regulations 2015 do not apply to this contract.

This Intended Approach Notice is being published in line with Regulation 10 - under The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime - PSR) Regulations 2023. The Most Suitable Provider Process is being used to commission this service.

This will be published for at least 14 calendar days as per the requirements of the Provider Selection Regime 2023.

This is to enable providers to approach the Council and express their interest in being considered as the 'most suitable provider'. To do so, providers must register on Hampshire County Council's E-Tendering platform, In-Tend: <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/hampshire/aspx/Home>

Once you have registered and accessed the In-tend project reference AS28601, please send a message through the portal's messaging facility to express your interest.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £110,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ35 - South Hampshire
- UKJ36 - Central Hampshire
- UKJ37 - North Hampshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Hampshire Council is seeking a provider via the Most Suitable Provider process under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 to embed smoking cessation into talking therapies.

Description of Service and Initiative:

OHID has allocated funding to local authorities in England through the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSSG). The grant aims to strengthen smoking cessation services in Hampshire, increase quit attempts, and support the government's ambition for a smoke-free generation. It focuses on expanding access to evidence-based behavioural support and targeting groups with higher smoking rates to reduce health inequalities.

Smoking is strongly linked to anxiety and depression, with higher smoking rates among people with mental health conditions. While smoking harms physical health, it also worsens mental health outcomes. Evidence shows quitting smoking can improve symptoms of anxiety and depression, highlighting the potential role of talking therapies in both smoking cessation. Evidence demonstrates that talking therapies and counselling significantly increase long-term quit rates.

Hampshire Council is seeking a suitable provider of NHS Talking Therapy services to embed smoking cessation offer into established services in Hampshire. The talking therapy services offered must be free at the point of access with the provider able to embed Very Brief Advice into its talking therapy service. It must employ a clinical psychologist who is able to provide oversight and leadership to the programme. The activity will possibly include developing training materials and training staff, embedding Very Brief Advice into talking therapy services and offering online webinars.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

2 March 2026

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Intended Approach Notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 do not apply to this contract.

1) Conditions for participation

1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

The successful most suitable provider will have to satisfy the Basic Selection Criteria and demonstrate how they meet the Key Criteria as listed within this notice.

The Council will select the most suitable provider based on the following stages:

1) The Provider will have to satisfy the Basic Selection Criteria in accordance with regulation 19 of the PSR

2) The Council will then assess providers who satisfy the Basic Selection Criteria against the Key Criteria as set out below to determine the most suitable provider.

The criteria are ranked in priority order:-

- a) Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice value
- b) Integration, collaboration, and service sustainability
- c) Quality and Innovation

d) Value

e) Social Value

1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

As part of the most suitable provider process there will be an assessment of the company's financial performance and stability based on the accounts provided and a financial risk assessment carried out by Credit Safe

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

The provider must be a current provider of NHS Talking Therapy Services in Hampshire, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

The services provided must be free at the point of use

The provider must employ a trained clinical psychologist who can provide leadership to and oversee the programme

The provider must provide in person therapy to Hampshire residents (although they may have remote or digital offer in addition to in person sessions).