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Tender

Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Echocardiography (Echocardiography Training Programme administered by the NSHCS)

Health Education England

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-008754

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02a9a3

Published 23 April 2021, 2:26pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Health Education England

1st Floor, Blenheim House, Duncombe Street

Leeds

LS1 4PL

Contact

Ms Leila Hodson

Email

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Telephone

+44 7392273769

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://hee.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://hee.nhs.uk/>

I.3) Communication

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

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Opportunities/Index?p=40bb618e-0a24-e611-8114-000c29c9ba21&v=2>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Opportunities/Index?p=40bb618e-0a24-e611-8114-000c29c9ba21&v=2>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Echocardiography (Echocardiography Training Programme administered by the NSHCS)

Reference number

DN539431

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

HEE and the NSHCS would like to develop and implement this programme to run alongside and be accredited and commissioned in the same way as the existing HCS programmes, and would like to invite Expressions of Interest/Tenders from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) or equivalent who would like to deliver the Academic content.

Following the Richards Report and in response to the Long term plan, HEE intends to implement the Post Graduate certificate in Echocardiography as an 18 month salary supported programme of the NSHCS starting in October 2021.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80300000 - Higher education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

In line with the NHS People plan and Long term plan and the Richards report, the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) have recognised the need to develop alternative routes to qualifying as a clinical scientist. The Echocardiography Training Programme (ETP) has been developed, as a pathway that will respond more rapidly to the urgent workforce needs for Cardiac Physiologists able to independently operate as echocardiographers. The Cardiac Physiology workforce has grown as result of the Scientific Training Programme (STP), however, the demand for Cardiac Physiologists remains high, with a current estimated shortfall of 663 WTE.

The workforce shortfall represents a major risk to delivery of the people plan, particularly for waiting time targets in diagnosis and follow up of cardiovascular disease and cancer pathways, and the further development of 7-day services and delivery of Echocardiography in primary care. Currently 86% of patients diagnosed with cardiomyopathy have their echocardiogram in hospital, while only 10% are diagnosed by Echocardiography in the community – a large increase in access and delivery could offer significant improvements in speed of diagnosis and cost savings.

The ETP was run as a small pilot in 2020 and all indications to date are that it is welcomed by the workforce and is working well.

The pilot represents an accelerated pathway for Cardiac Physiologists to gain BSE Accreditation to enable them to work autonomously to meet the current workforce needs. The need for this course is urgent as the ability of training places is already extremely limited due to shortage of staffing and competing demands (delivering service, training Medical Staff, commitments to other areas of Cardiac Diagnostic department). This course is unique in offering an integrated programme to deliver both the Academic content leading to a Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Echocardiography and work place training, building on successful elements of the STP including Echocardiography modules, Accreditation of departments and support for trainees and training officers, kick-starting the hands-on skills by utilising a simulator – research has shown this can significantly increase skills in the early learning phase.

HEE and the NSHCS would like to develop and implement this programme to run alongside and be accredited and commissioned in the same way as the existing HCS programmes, and would like to invite Expressions of Interest/Tenders from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) or equivalent who would like to deliver the Academic content.

Following the Richards Report and in response to the Long term plan, HEE intends to implement the Post Graduate certificate in Echocardiography as an 18 month salary supported programme of the NSHCS starting in October 2021.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £2,250,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

36

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Option to extend for a further 2 years, subject to an annual review of service need and budget availability.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

24 May 2021

Local time

12:20pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

24 May 2021

Local time

1:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: There is the possibility that this could be a recurrent procurement.

As such this will be advertised following the near completion of this contract.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

London

Country

United Kingdom