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Contract

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services - North East Essex

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-009126

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-044b12

Published 21 March 2024, 9:44am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Aspen House, Stephenson Road, Severalls Business Park

Colchester

CO4 9QR

Contact

Jane Garnett

Email

jane.garnett@snee.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

NHS Organisation Data Service

QJG

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services - North East Essex

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS) provision within the North East Essex Alliance footprints. The service is to be provided to all eligible patients, as per NHS E's eligibility criteria.

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: £9,710,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

Main site or place of performance

Provision is to cover the North East Essex Alliance locality.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NEPTS comprises the movement of patients whose condition is not considered an 'emergency' and who can, therefore, travel in an ambulance vehicle specified to a lower

level of medical provision, or, indeed, a car.

NEPTS are typified by the non-urgent, planned, transportation of patients with a medical need for transport to and from a premises providing NHS healthcare and between NHS healthcare providers.

NEPTS are a key enabler underpinning access to elective care and supporting timely and efficient discharge processes for acute and community providers. Continuity of provision is important for the system to maintain patient flow and stability.

The length of the contract is two years as this allows the necessary time to complete a complex procurement and allow one year for mobilisation, as requested by providers. This also ensures stability of provision whilst procuring and prevents additional interim running costs, and the potential for high service transfer costs for a short contract period.

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board are awarding the contract named within this notice due to an urgent circumstance which is outlined within the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: To address immediate risks to safety and quality of care /
Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

The recent NEPTS procurement was abandoned following challenge. This did not leave the ICB with enough time to complete a full procurement for the new service and allow sufficient time for mobilisation before the existing contract expired. Due to the need to maintain stability, continuity and prevent unnecessary costs the ICB have awarded this contract to the incumbent provider.

To enable the procurement of a new NEPTS service the contract length needs to be long enough to allow time to procure and mobilise; and prevent disproportionate additional costs of transferring / competing a short-term contract. The incumbent provider has been awarded a two-year contract, commencing on 1 April 2024, ending on 31 March 2026 with no option of extension.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services - North East Essex

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

26 February 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Whiting Way, Melbourn,

Cambridge

SG8 6EN

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

NHS Organisation Data Service

RYC

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £9,710,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to this award. This award is being made urgently and the reason for the urgency was not foreseen by the ICB for the reasons outlined within this notice. This award is being made in order to prevent risk to patient and public safety, and the ICB is not able to satisfy the requirements of regulations 6 - 13 for the reasons outlined below.

The decision to award the contract was made by the ICB Board in November 2023, having the support of the Executive Committee and Audit Committee prior to Board decision.

No conflicts of interest, or potential conflicts of interest, were declared by any decision makers.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Aspen House, Stephenson Road, Severalls Business Park

Colchester

CO4 9QR

Email

procurement@snee.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom