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Award

GP Clinical Assessment Service - Cat 3 & 4

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-009338

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b770

Published 30 March 2023, 3:44pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Units 7&8 Talisman Business Centre

BICESTER

OX266HR

Contact

Julie Robins

Email

julie.robins@scas.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

NHS Organisation Data Service

None

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.scas.nhs.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

GP Clinical Assessment Service - Cat 3 & 4

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85121100 - General-practitioner services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Intention to award a Public Services Contract under Regulation 32(2) (b) (ii) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 for the provision of a GP Lead Clinical Assessment Service for Cat 3 & 4 - to allow for calls to the Urgent Care phone line to be assessed by GPs over the telephone, reducing the need for dispatching ambulances in cases where the medical need would be better served by a different clinical solution. Achieving an 80% downgrade rate.

The Negotiated Procedure without Prior Publication is being followed and is justified under Regulation 32 (2) (b) (ii).

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: £3,651,515

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85141000 - Services provided by medical personnel

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

As part of the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) remit to operate the 999 call service, it was identified that ambulances were being sent to patients that didn't need them, which otherwise could have been downgraded over the phone, reducing the need to dispatch an ambulance unnecessarily, and reducing the pressure and demand on the use of ambulances.

An opportunity was identified whereby if there were suitably qualified clinical personnel to direct these calls to, this would save ambulance resource and as a result make a monetary saving for the Trust. This would result in calls coming in to the call centres being downgraded to Category 3s or 4s, and avoiding the need to dispatch an emergency ambulance to these patients.

An initial one year pilot contract between SCAS & local commissioners was set up based on testing the viability and success of the required outcome. A pilot subcontract was set up between SCAS and their subcontractor provide a GP Clinical Assessment Service to support this opportunity.

The existing contract is due to expire on 26th April 2023. The pilot has shown a huge benefit to SCAS - downgrade rates of 80%.

As a result of the success with the pilot contract, an additional 18 month contract is required to fill the gap between current contract end date, and the current commissioned services expiry dates. If the contract expires with no replacement, SCAS and the public would experience a huge drop in service level, and an unnecessary dispatching of ambulances, putting further pressure on ambulance resources.

The existing pilot contract provision is due to expire on 26th April 2023. Due to the short timescales involved, and the need for the service to be successfully operating immediately, SCAS conducted a tender process with a closed group of 5 existing subcontractor healthcare providers, that already provide these or very similar services to SCAS.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- New works/services, constituting a repetition of existing works/services

Explanation:

The Negotiated Procedure without Prior Publication is being followed and is justified under Regulation 32 (2) (b) (ii) - Technical Reasons.

1. Technical reasons: The GP-led option consistently overachieves on the model of 80% downgrades of Cat 3 & 4 and 3 calls per hour. This needs to be maintained within the timescales available.

2. Economic reasons: The GP-led option is the most cost-effective and offers the best quality

3. Legal reasons: Potential TUPE risks exist and are currently being assessed

Non-discriminatory decision: Five suppliers were invited to tender, and the evaluation process was transparent and fair.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Title

GP Clinical Assessment Service - Cat 3 & 4

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

30 March 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

East Berkshire Primary Care Out of Hours

Inspired, Easthampstead Road,

Bracknell, Berkshire

RG12 1YQ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ - South East (England)

Companies House

IP29827R

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,651,515

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This is a VEAT notice to show our intention to award a public services contract using the Negotiated Procedure without prior publication (Regulation 32 (2) (b) (ii)).

A mandatory 10 day standstill period will be observed, until 9th April 2023.

A subsequent award notice will be published in due course.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

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United Kingdom

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