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Award

12-21 Counselling Service

City of York Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-012715

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-064e9c

Published 12 February 2026, 10:16am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

City of York Council

West Offices, Station Rise

York

YO16GA

Contact

Mark Woolford

Email

mark.woolford@york.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKE21 - York

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.york.gov.uk

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

12-21 Counselling Service

Reference number

57028

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85312320 - Counselling services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Council intends to apply a short term extension to its existing contract for the provision of counselling services for young people aged 12-21 living in York. This

extension is required to maintain continuity of provision while the Council undertakes a full review of children and young people's counselling services and aligns future commissioning with the Humber and North Yorkshire Mental Health Strategic Transformation Plan 2025-2030.

The current service was originally awarded in 2019 to York Mind following a competitive procurement for a 16-25 counselling service. A subsequent service level agreement piloted counselling for 12-15 year olds, including 1:1 art therapy. The contracting authority intends to award a contract for 12-21 Counselling Service.

The Contracting Authority is not awarding a new contract. This VEAT notice is in respect of a proposed short-term extension to the term of its contract for the provision of 12-21 counselling service. See sections 2.2.3 for further details.

The contract was varied to incorporate the 12-15 service and extend the 16-25 service for a further year, creating a unified 12-21 counselling service, supported by a £10k contribution from the ICB.

The proposed extension will allow sufficient time for:

- a full review of CYP counselling provision
- alignment with statutory duties and system wide responsibilities
- development of an integrated commissioning model with the ICB
- a robust procurement process and evaluation for a longer term solution

The contract extension period: is 12 months beyond the extension period originally set out in the contract.

The indicative procurement timetable for the new service is as follows:

Write draft specification Oct-Nov 2026

Write Contract, Tender documents with Legal / Procurement support: Oct-Nov 2026

Preliminary Market Engagement phase starts: Early Nov 2026

Draft Invitation to Tender documentation, draft applicable Notices: Mid Nov - Dec 2026

Invitation to Tender Period (30 days): 4th Jan 2027

Invitation to Tender return deadline date: 4th Feb 2027

Tender evaluation: Early Feb 2027

Standstill (8 working days from date of Contract Award Notice publication): Mid Feb 2027

Approval to award: Late Feb 2027

Contract Mobilisation / Implementation Process (6 weeks): March 2027

New Contract starts: 1st April 2027

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: £285,324

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85312320 - Counselling services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKE21 - York

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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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

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

Explanation:

The Council considers that the extension may be lawfully applied under Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Justification:

- The service can only be delivered by the current provider, York Mind, without causing disruption to vulnerable service users and continuity of care.
- No reasonable alternative provider could mobilise the service within the required timescales without significant risk to service users.
- A change of supplier at this point would create disproportionate operational and safeguarding risks and interrupt ongoing therapeutic relationships.
- Extending the contract ensures continuity, stability, and value for money while the Council undertakes a strategic review and prepares a compliant procurement process.

The extension is also permitted under Contract Procedure Rule 26.2.5, which allows extension with an existing provider where there is significant benefit and no unacceptable risk to the Council.

This VEAT notice is published voluntarily to ensure transparency prior to applying the contract extension. The Council will observe a voluntary standstill period of 30 days from the date of publication. The contract variation will only be executed following the standstill period, subject to no legal challenge being received.

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/concession

Contract No

DN77739/1172

Title

12-21 Counselling Service

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 April 2025

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

York Mind

Highcliffe House, Highcliffe Court

York

YO30 6BP

Email

alyson.scott@yorkmind.org.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKE21 - York

Companies House

2659442

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £285,324

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £285,324

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom