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Contract

Community Ophthalmology Service / Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-013129

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04546f

Published 23 April 2024, 12:17pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Charter House Parkway

Welwyn Garden City

AL8 6JL

Email

mark.fordham1@nhs.net

Telephone

+44 1442284135

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk/>

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

Community Ophthalmology Service / Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice and as such provides notification of the intention of the Authority to enter into a contract for the Community Ophthalmology Service / Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) to be provided to the population of West Essex (and Essex wide) by the incumbent provider, Primary Eyecare Services Limited.

The new contract is intended to begin on 1st April 2024 and end on 31st March 2026 with

the option to extend for a further 12 months. The value of the new contract is £1,086,480 (excl. VAT). Please note that these are expected values and may be amended post contract finalisation with the provider.

The service has been in place since 1st April 2021 and has a total cumulative value of approximately £920,455 (excluding the value of this new contract).

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: £1,086,480

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice and as such provides notification of the intention of the Authority to enter into a contract for the Community Ophthalmology Service / Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) to be provided to the population of West Essex (and Essex wide) by the incumbent provider, Primary Eyecare Services Limited.

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The service has been in place since 1st April 2021 and has a total cumulative value of approximately £920,455 (excluding the value of this new contract).

Primary Eyecare Services Limited provide the following Community Ophthalmology Service / Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) pathways of care for West Essex Place patients:

- Advice and guidance to health care professionals with regard to the MEC service
- Telephone and face-to-face triage to ensure patients are suitable for the MEC service and to assess urgency of treatment required

- Patient advice and education
- Full diagnostic service and management of results
- Appropriate treatment for the diagnosed clinical condition
- One stop shop approach where appropriate
- Timely onward referrals when clinically necessary
- Make appropriate recommendations for medication in line with the agreed formulary
- Planned discharge with guidance for continuing self-care
- Follow up where clinically necessary

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Option to extend for a further year from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

In line with best practice, the Authority will observe a voluntary 10-day standstill period prior to concluding the proposed contract with Primary Eyecare Services Limited.

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

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

Explanation:

Rationale to explain why the proposed contracting arrangements can only be delivered by the existing provider:

- The supplier/provider for the MECS is being sought from is Primary EyeCare Services, they are the non-profit organisation of the Essex LOC (Local Ophthalmology Community)
- The model is an optometrist-led model delivered by the local optometrists through sub-contractual arrangements with Primary EyeCare Services
- PES are the only provider who can deliver this as it's a coordinating role through which no other provider has those existing arrangements in place with the local optometrists
- An alternative provider could not deliver the service as the local optometrists are unlikely to engage with an alternative provider given their relationship with PES
- Without a provider to deliver that coordinating role with those existing arrangements, the optometrist-led model could not be delivered
- An alternative model for the service is not being considered as it has achieved significant benefits as demonstrated by the outcomes achieved

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 April 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

PRIMARY EYECARE SERVICES LIMITED

Waulk Mill [2.3] 51 Bengal Street, Manchester, England

Manchester

M4 6LN

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

06722353

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,086,480

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,086,480

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice for England and Wales

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom