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Planning

School Aged Immunisation Services in Thames Valley, Kent and Medway and Sussex

NHS England

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Prior information notice without call for competition

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-014329

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03cdd9

Published 19 May 2023, 12:58pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

THREE SIX ZERO

BRISTOL

BS13NX

Contact

Rebecca Rogers

Email

scwcsu.procurement@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ - South East (England)

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

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

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

School Aged Immunisation Services in Thames Valley, Kent and Medway and Sussex

Reference number

C168782

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NHS England South East is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) and responses to a market questionnaire from providers which have the capability and capacity to provide a School Aged Immunisation Service within the Thames Valley, Kent and Medway and Sussex areas, and would wish to take part in a potential procurement exercise. Responses will help to inform the commissioning strategy.

The overall aim of the procurement is to secure services that will ensure maximum uptake and coverage of school aged immunisation programmes and contribute to the population outcomes set out in the national immunisation strategy that is due to be published shortly.

The invitation to tender is likely to be published in September 2023 and the contract is due to begin in August 2024. It is likely that the services will be split into 6 lots based around local authority boundaries, but this is still being considered and the final decision will be informed by both market and stakeholder engagement. The total annual contract value across all areas is anticipated to be £7,656,924.

Immunisation is one of the most successful and cost effective health protection interventions. High immunisation rates are key to preventing the spread of infectious disease, complications and possible early death among individuals and to protecting the population's health.

School Aged Immunisation Services deliver specified vaccination programmes to all children and young people of school age, irrespective of educational setting. Providers are expected to tailor deliver methods and settings to the needs of the population served so as to maximise coverage.

The programmes currently in scope are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis (Td/IPV adolescent booster);
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY);
- Human papillomavirus (HPV);
- Seasonal influenza (flu) immunisation programmes for school aged children (the cohort is expected to expand in future years); and
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) catch-up.
- Under-immunised pre-school catch-up

This scope may be extended in future to include additional programmes as advised/recommended by the Joint Committee of Vaccinations and Immunisations and/or at the request of the commissioner. Schedules may also change in respect of number or timing of doses or the eligible population to be served. Providers will be expected to respond to such changes.

Aim and Objectives of service

The aim of the service is to achieve maximum uptake and coverage of the programmes in scope. It will do this through safe, effective, accessible and high quality delivery to the eligible population. The service offer will incorporate the following features:

- A planned and co-ordinated approach with strong local leadership focussed on maximising coverage and uptake
- Identification of, and full offer to, the whole eligible population, with repeated offers until school leaving age
- Delivery which addresses local health inequalities, with additional tailored and targeted interventions where necessary, including outreach and community-based options
- The service will be delivered in a culturally sensitive way by a suitably trained and competent and diverse workforce that reflects the population served, with effective use of skill mix to achieve efficiency and value for money

- Accurate and timely recording, collation and reporting of vaccinations both for individuals and at population level

- A programme of promotion and engagement activities to encourage vaccine uptake. This will include collaborating with and supporting NHS England UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in any campaigns or activities it undertakes.

There is an expectation that the contract holder(s) for all lots will work with public health nursing and other children's services across the geography/s to maximise collaboration and opportunities for integrated service offer and delivery.

This exercise is being managed by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioner(s).

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £53,598,468

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.2.14) Additional information

The services are healthcare services falling within Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") which are not subject to the full regime of the Regulations, but are instead governed by the "Light Touch Regime" contained within Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Regulations (Regulations 74 to 77).

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 September 2023

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This notice is an information gathering exercise rather than a call for competition in its own right, and therefore publication or response does not commit the Authority or respondents to a future procurement, nor provide any process exemptions or preferential treatment to any parties expressing an interest and the information you provide will not be used to shortlist bidders or influence any bid scoring in the substantive procurement exercise. The Authority will not be liable for costs incurred by any interested party in participating in this exercise.

Interested providers will be able to view this opportunity via the live opportunities list on the 'Health Family' e-procurement system, Atamis. Click on 'View our Live Opportunities' from the home page, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>.

Once you have found the opportunity (via the search function, using the title or reference number), to gain full access to the relevant information and market engagement questionnaire, you will need to click on 'Register interest' - this will take you to the log-in page.

If you are not already registered on the system, you will need to do so before gaining full access to the documentation and to be able to submit your market engagement questionnaire using the messages function within Atamis.

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Any future tendering process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and flexibilities provided by Articles 74 to 76 of the Directive, and Regulations 74 to 76 of the Regulations. The Authority will run a transparent tender process, treating all Bidders equally. For the avoidance of doubt, the Authority will not be bound by the Regulations or any other regulations or legislation except for the specific parts or circumstances that apply to the procurement of these Services.