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Not applicable

Provision of Domiciliary Care Services in the Western Health & Social Care Trust Area Lot3 Extension

Western Health and Social Care Trust

F14: Notice for changes or additional information

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-014361

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03cdec

Published 19 May 2023, 2:42pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Western Health and Social Care Trust

MDEC Building, Altnagelvin Area Hospital Site, Glenshane Road

Derry

BT47 6SB

Email

info.contracts@westerntrust.hscni.net

Telephone

+44 2871345171

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.westerntrust.hscni.net>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of Domiciliary Care Services in the Western Health & Social Care Trust Area
Lot3 Extension

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Provision of Domiciliary Care Services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust Area
Lot 3 Limavady Guaranteed Hours 1,953 per week Estimated Time Specific Hours 1,053
hours per week

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.6) Original notice reference

Notice number: [2016/S 200-361245](#)

Section VII. Changes

VII.1.2) Text to be corrected in the original notice

Section number

VI.1.4)

Place of text to be modified

VII.1.4 Description of the procurement (please note section number is VII.1.4 not VI.1.4)

Read

Text

Department of Health Direction also referred, See Trust's response at VII.2.2

Section number

VI.2.1)

Place of text to be modified

VII.2.1 Description of Modification (please note section number is VII.2.1 not VI.2.1)

Instead of

Text

Extension to Contract Period

The Trust refers to its response below at VII.2.2 and VII.2.3

Read

Text

Extension to Contract Period

Department of Health Direction

The Trust refers to its response below at VII.2.2 and VII.2.3

Section number

VI.3.1)

Place of text to be modified

VI.3 Additional information (please note section number is VI.3 not VI.3.1)

Instead of

Text

Reference VII.2.2 continued:

The Trust is preparing to re-tender this Service.

Read

Text

Reference VII.2.2 continued:

Extension of Contract Period The Trust is preparing to re-tender this Service.

Section number

VI.3.1)

Place of text to be modified

VI.3 Additional information (please note section number is VI.3 not VI.3.1)

Instead of

Text

In order to ensure the continued and uninterrupted service delivery of this critical front line service, in the interim, the Trust issued a letter 23 February 2023 to amend the Contracts in Lot 3 with effect from 23rd February 2023 (Variation Date) so that the Contract Period shall be amended to include one further period of extension of 12 months commencing on 1st March 2023 and expiring on 29th February 2024.

The second condition of this ground under Regulation 72(1)(c) (ii) is that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract. Here the service, being a domiciliary care service, is unchanged.

Read

Text

In order to ensure the continued and uninterrupted service delivery of this critical front line

service, in the interim, the Trust issued a letter 23 February 2023 to amend the Contracts in Lot 3 with effect from 23rd February 2023 (Variation Date) so that the Contract Period shall be amended to include one further period of extension of 12 months commencing on 1st March 2023 and expiring on 29th February 2024.

Department of Health Direction

The Health Minister made an announcement on 24th November 2021 that additional funding for pressures on service provision within the Independent Domiciliary Care sector ("Additional Funding") would be available for the current financial year for the domiciliary care sector.

Following this announcement, the Department of Health Northern Ireland ("DoH NI") made a direction in respect of this Additional Funding.

The direction from the DoH NI stated:-

"The overarching principles of this additional funding is to ensure that Independent Sector providers deliver significant improvements in the pay, and terms and conditions for staff across the sector. This has been emphasised to the sector representatives who have committed to ensuring that the uplift in funding will be utilised to stabilise and increase capacity across the sector. It is also the Department's expectation that Trusts will work proactively with the sector to maximise capacity within areas of greatest need in terms of step-down and discharge from hospitals, waiting lists and unmet need. The Department will also continue to engage with the sector to drive these changes."

The Trust issued a letter dated 22nd December 2021 to current Providers to vary the Contract to increase Providers' Hourly Rates to £18.00 per hour from 1st November 2021 until 28th February 2022 and a letter dated 24 February 2022 to vary the Contract to increase Providers' Hourly Rates to £18.00 per hour from 1-31 March 2022 in accordance with the above noted direction of the DoH NI.

The DoH NI further directed as follows:

(1) that the Additional Funding referred to above of £18.00 per hour continue to be paid for the financial year 2022/2023; and

(2) that the hourly rate of £18.00 referred to above should be further increased to £18.08 per hour to reflect the increase in the 2022/23 Employers National Insurance Contribution rate to ensure that the ability of Providers to improve the terms and conditions for their staff is not diminished with the implementation of the statutory increase in Employers National Insurance Contribution rates.

The Trust issued a letter dated 23 February 2023 to current Providers to vary the Contract

to increase Providers' Hourly Rates to £18.08 per hour from 1st April 2022 until 28th February 2023 in accordance with the above noted direction of the DoH NI.

The Trust is bound by statute to comply with directions of the DoH NI and as such to make payment as directed of an increased Hourly Rate of £18.08 to its current domiciliary care providers for the period from 1st March 2023 until 31 March 2023.

In compliance with this statutory obligation to comply with the DoH NI direction, the Trust therefore issued a further letter dated 23 February 2023 to all current Providers to vary the Contract in respect of this direction.

The second condition of this ground under Regulation 72(1)(c) (ii) is that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract. Here the service, being a domiciliary care service, is unchanged.