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Award

## **HCV "Follow Me" project roll out**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-014870

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03cf41

Published 25 May 2023, 9:59am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, 2nd Floor Woodland House, Maes Y Coed Road, Heath

Cardiff

CF14 4HH

#### **Email**

[jane.boult@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.boult@wales.nhs.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 02921834657

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.procurement.wales.nhs.uk>

Buyer's address

[http://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221](http://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

HCV "Follow Me" project roll out

Reference number

CAV-STA (23-24) 28

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85323000 - Community health services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have a requirement to award contract to Hepatitis C Trust to continue the Follow Me project activities that are contracted until the

end of May 2023. The CAV Area Planning Board have agreed to commission the service as part of its Welsh Government Revenue Grant core funding. Thus, ensuring the HCT continues to work alongside commissioned Substance Misuse Services and associated partners to enhance activities aimed at preventing, diagnosis of HCV infections and linkage to treatment and care. This funding will allow seamless continuation of the Follow Me programme which has been successful since the adaptation of the HCT Peer to Peer support programme that has been delivered since 2010. During this time HCT has garnered and built substantial expertise. A robust induction and training package enables peers to access additional skills and an accredited qualification. Regular supervision, one to one support and regular service user feedback ensures the level of skills are monitored and maintained.

#### **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: £300,000

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

In response to this the Hepatitis C Trust (HCT) have been successful in developing and implementing projects across the UK, designed to support diagnostic testing and linkage to care of HCV in a variety of settings. This includes a Follow Me Project which sees the deployment of peer support workers (with lived experience of HCV) to settings and services working with high prevalence communities to carry out testing for viral hepatitis. This resulting in individuals being given appropriate advice on reducing the risk of onward transmission, signposted to an appropriate service for further intervention, supported in attending the service and supported through treatment. This peer-based intervention has been designed to improve access to testing and treatment and deliver effective treatments to these high prevalent groups with all of the associated benefits including improved individual health, reduced morbidity and mortality, reduced transmission and reduced need for expensive health care and utilisation of scarce resource.

Despite the outcomes and progress achieved to date, limitations made to National Liver Disease Implementation Group funding has not permitted further extensions to the HCT

national contract, and continuation of Follow Me Project activities beyond May 2023. In order to prevent loss of progress, maintenance of peer networks and ensure continuation of service the CAV Area Planning Board have agreed to commission the service as part of its Welsh Government Revenue Grant core funding. Thus, ensuring the HCT continues to work alongside commissioned Substance Misuse Services and associated partners to enhance activities aimed at preventing, diagnosis of HCV infections and linkage to treatment and care. As part of this commission it is expected the service would continue to deliver the following activities (but not limited to):

Delivery of specialist training, awareness raising workshops across APB partner services.

Consult and offer specialist advice to APB partner services on enhancing current BBV diagnosis and treatment pathways.

Undertake community testing events .

Undertake routine testing on those most at risk.

Supporting those with a HCV diagnosis into treatment, including those lost to follow up.

Support local HCV Clinical Nurse Specialists find and follow up patients.

In addition to the above, it is intended the HCT Follow Me Project team (Project Coordinator and Peer Support Lead) would continue to develop its network of volunteer peers across Cardiff and Vale UHB, as highlighted above, to support delivery of workshop activities and directly engage clients of relevant services into testing and treatment where needed. This work would require the project Peer Coordinator supported by the Hepatitis C Trust (HCT) Regional Manager to continue in its development and maintenance of local partnerships across the Health Board and explore opportunities for the project to be scaled up, expanded, and supported through existing services.

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

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

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## **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 Hepatitis C Trust is the national charity for hepatitis C. Operational since 2001, their aim is to ensure no one dies from this preventable and treatable disease, and it is eliminated from the UK.

As a patient-led organisation the HCT have been established by people with lived experience of hepatitis C, and their working model has always been to put patients and the patient experience at the centre of their work. Their peer-to-peer work is core to this model. Their main points of contact in the early days of their work were through their website, helpline, both of which were, and still are, ran by peers with lived experience of hepatitis C – peers who offer advice and support by drawing on their own expertise and personal experiences. Today, while their website and helpline are still thriving, they offer an extensive peer-to-peer programme across the UK, with 140 staff and peer volunteers.

Their programme has evolved to meet the current needs of patients and the changing landscape of health service delivery through the UK. This has been fundamental to reaching those who face the most challenges accessing services.

In May 2016 the UK signed up to the World Health Organisation (WHO) goal to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030. Since then the HCT's peer support work has been instrumental in assisting many of England's Operational Delivery Network (ODN) in overcoming barriers necessary to effectively meeting these targets.

Currently no other single supplier exists which is able to provide the level of specialist knowledge and expertise that is required to this contract

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

## **Contract No**

CAV-STA (23-24) 28

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

## **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

22 May 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**

The Hepatitis C Trust

72 Weston Street

London

SE13QG

Telephone

+44 7792949370

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

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: £300,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

Please note additional information on this procurement:

1. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the contract in whole, in part or annul the tendering process and not award any contract.
2. Bidders should note that they will be required to enter into NHS terms and conditions of contract and that save for matters of clarification or consistency the Contracting Authority will not negotiate the terms.
3. Bidders should note that NHS Shared Services Partnership - Procurement Services is acting on behalf of Cardiff and Vale UHB

(WA Ref:131770)

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Public Procurement Review Service

Cabinet Office

London

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Telephone

+44 3450103503

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope->

[and-remit](#)

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The Authority will allow a minimum 10 calendar day standstill period between notifying the award decision and awarding the contract. Should additional information be required from the addressee in section 1.1 Aggrieved parties who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by breach of the procurement rules have the right to take action in the High Court (England and Wales). Any such action is subject to strict time limits in accordance with the Public Contracts (Amendments) Regulations 2015.