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Contract

Breastfeeding Peer Support Service

Portsmouth City Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-016893

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050743

Published 24 April 2025, 6:22pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Portsmouth City Council

Civic Offices, Guildhall Square

Portsmouth

PO12AL

Email

cscplacementteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ31 - Portsmouth

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.portsmouth.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

Breastfeeding Peer Support Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85140000 - Miscellaneous health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Breastfeeding Network Service provide a community-based service, adopting multi-faceted approaches in order to improve breastfeeding initiation and prevalence rates in Portsmouth, therefore supporting a reduction in health inequalities. The service contributes to promoting a social and cultural shift where breastfeeding is recognised as the conventional way to feed an infant.

Their team of peer supporters and volunteers are in place to support mothers and expectant mothers throughout their breastfeeding journey and support with the many different factors and techniques involved, inclusive of Combination feeding, expressing, exclusively breastfeeding, chest-feeding, newborn stage, toddler stage, ending the breastfeeding journey and debriefing feelings about a previous journey.

Type of services provide by BfN

Community Groups - These are all drop-in groups, running throughout the week at various locations across the city.

Online support - This involves 1:1 support via Zoom from a trained Breastfeeding Network peer support volunteer.

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: £76,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ31 - Portsmouth

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This notice is confirmation of an award being made due to an urgent circumstance.

Currently the Breastfeeding Network (BfN) is subcontracted under Home-Start Portsmouth through a consortium arrangement, with Home-Start being the consortium lead. This arrangement was put in place via an open tender in 2023 and aligned with Portsmouth plans in relation to the Government funded Family Hub and Best Start for Life offer. The initial term of these Contracts was for 33 months, and are due to terminate 31st March 2025, however, the services were to be extended year on year dependent on the government's intention to continue to fund the Council for this programme.

The DfE have only recently confirmed that the Council will continue to be funded for this

service for the 25/26 financial year, and there has been a severely limited timeframe to allocate funds to the appropriate service streams that all fall under this programme.

This consortium arrangement is unable to continue, therefore the decision has been taken to award a short term contract directly with the BfN to ensure minimum disruption to quality of service.

The Public Health Directorate are due to take over and manage these services later in the year, with the aim of awarding their own contract via PSR process by 1st September 2025.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Address immediate risks to safety and quality of care / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The contract has been awarded for a five month period with the option to extend up to a maximum twelve month period.

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

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

The Provider Selection Regime recognises that there are limited occasions where relevant authorities may need to act urgently and award or modify contracts to address immediate risks to patient or public safety.

These circumstances include where:

- urgent quality/safety concerns pose risks to patients or the public and necessitate rapid changes

In the view of the Council the contract award was urgent due to the above circumstance. It is acknowledged that the discontinuation of such services will pose risks from a quality viewpoint, as BfN provide crucial peer and online support for the benefit of service users' mental health, social health, and relationships with their babies/toddlers/young children

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

27 March 2025

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

The Breastfeeding Network

Edinburgh

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM - Scotland

Scottish Charity Register

SC330639

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £76,000

Total value of the contract/lot: £76,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 do not apply to this award.

The decision makers for this contract were the Integrated Children's Commissioning Team.

No conflicts of interest were identified as part of this exercise.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Independent Patient Choice & Procurement Panel

London

Country

United Kingdom