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Contract

Specialised counselling for pregnancy-related bereavement and baby loss across Suffolk and north east Essex.

NHS SUFFOLK AND NORTH EAST ESSEX INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-016941

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-050765

Published 25 April 2025, 10:21am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS SUFFOLK AND NORTH EAST ESSEX INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

Endeavour House, Russell Road

Ipswich

IP12BX

Contact

Caryn Akers

Email

procurement@snee.nhs.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH14 - Suffolk

NHS Organisation Data Service

QJG

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://suffolkandnortheastsex.icb.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/snee-icb/asp/Home>

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**

Specialised counselling for pregnancy-related bereavement and baby loss across Suffolk and north east Essex.

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Intention is to commission a specialised bereavement counselling service that meets the needs of women or the birthing person and their partners, who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health distress because of pregnancy-related bereavement or baby loss. Access to the service will be provided via professional referral and self-referral. The service is accessible following a stillbirth, second trimester miscarriage, terminations for medical reasons, recurrent miscarriages, neonatal loss, birth trauma, pregnancy after loss, and early miscarriage (by professional referral only). A fixed number of counselling sessions will be provided either virtually or face-to-face based on parent choice.

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: £286,800

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH14 - Suffolk
- UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

Main site or place of performance

The service is carried out across Suffolk and North East Essex ICB area

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The counselling service focusses on supporting women, birthing people and their partners who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health distress following a stillbirth, second trimester miscarriage, termination for medical reasons, recurrent miscarriages, neonatal loss, birth trauma, pregnancy after loss or early miscarriage (accessed only via professional referral). Access will be by professional referral or self-referral basis.

The delivery model will involve a triage session followed (if required) by a fixed number of counselling sessions. Patient outcomes will be captured using Core10 as an assessment method, with a minimum key performance benchmark of 50% for Reliable Improvement.

By providing support for mild to moderate mental following pregnancy-related loss support, this specialist service will become embedded in the commissioned perinatal

mental health pathway within the integrated care system.

Contract period will be 01/10/2025 to 31/09/2028, there will be no option to extend the contract.

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board are awarding the contract named within this notice under the Direct Award C process which is outlined within the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. The provider named in this notice is an existing provider and has been reviewed through a Key Criteria assessment to ensure the awarding body is satisfied with current performance and reasonably expects the provider to be able to satisfy the contract which is the subject of this notice. The contract which is the subject of this notice has not changed considerably when compared with the existing / previous contract delivered by the named provider.

The ICB may wish to introduce additional services during the lifetime of the contract ("Contract modifications"). Such contract modifications will be contemplated where additional requirements are similar and or complementary to the services already included in the Specification, at any given time. Such expansion would be by the addition of services commissioned by the Authority as named in the Contract Notice. To this end, after the award of contract, there is a possibility that the contract may be varied as allowable in accordance with the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Cost criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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:

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) intention to award notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to this award. The publication of this notice marks the start of the standstill period.

Representations by providers must be made to decision makers by 8th May 2025 (8 working days following publication of intention to award notice). They should be submitted in writing to procurement@snee.nhs.uk.

This contract has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award under the PSR.

Award decision-makers: Richard Watson, Executive Director on the recommendation of the Mental Health Multi-Disciplinary Team.

- No conflicts of interest, or potential conflicts of interest, were declared by any decision makes.

The decision to award this contract in line with Direct Award Process C was based on evaluation against the five required key criteria as follows:

- Quality and Innovation - Assured - SNEE ICB are assured that the provider is delivering a safe and effective service as required by the specification and contract they are currently delivering. This criterion was reviewed in line with the Quality Impact Assessment.
- Value - Assured - SNEE ICB are assured that the provider is delivering value to the integrated care system and the cost of change would not be outweighed by the potential benefit of a new provider.

- Integration, Collaboration and Service Sustainability - Assured - SNEE ICB are assured that the provider is positively impacting on the integrated care system through their integration and collaboration delivered as a requirement of the specification or alternative elements linked to the delivery.
- Improving Access, Reducing Health Inequalities and Facilitating Choice - Assured - SNEE ICB are assured that the provider is meeting needs of the population to ensure equitable access and choice as required by the specification and contract. This criterion was reviewed in line with the Equality Impact Assessment.
- Social Value - Part Assured - SNEE ICB are partly assured that the provider is delivering in line with the SNEE Green Plan, supporting with the implementation of carbon reduction and increase in initiatives which positively impact on the wider determinants of health. This criterion was reviewed in line with the Sustainability Impact Assessment.

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

11 March 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Petals - The Baby Loss Counselling Charity

Cambridge

CB25 9TU

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH12 - Cambridgeshire CC

Charity Commission (England and Wales)

1150375

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: £286,800

Total value of the contract/lot: £286,800

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Ipswich

Country

United Kingdom