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Planning

The Provision of Drug & Alcohol Prescribing - Criminal Justice Services

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership-Procurement Services (hosted by Velindre University NHS Trust)

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-018155

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-065edc

Published 27 February 2026, 5:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership-Procurement Services (hosted by Velindre University NHS Trust)

4-5 Charnwood Court,, Heol Billingsley, Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

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NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/procurement-services/>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

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

The Provision of Drug & Alcohol Prescribing - Criminal Justice Services

Reference number

SBU-MSPP-62330

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85312500 - Rehabilitation services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Health Board is commissioning an interim clinical drug and alcohol treatment service to support adults in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot who require prescribing interventions, including those within the criminal justice system. The service will deliver safe, evidence-based opioid substitution therapy and alcohol treatment, with rapid clinical assessment and a strong emphasis on same-day or timely prescribing to minimise risk and improve engagement. It will work as part of the wider Alliance model, integrating seamlessly with psychosocial services and supporting continuity of care from custody, court and prison into the community. The provider will be responsible for maintaining robust clinical governance, ensuring compliance with national guidelines, and collaborating closely with criminal justice partners to facilitate effective pathways, reduce harm, and support individuals' recovery goals.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £750,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKL18 - Swansea

Main site or place of performance

The Service will be provided across the whole Swansea Bay University Health Board Footprint

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The interim clinical drug and alcohol treatment service will deliver a comprehensive range of prescribing interventions, including stabilisation, reduction, withdrawal, detoxification, relapse prevention, and support towards recovery or abstinence, all in line with UK clinical guidelines and NICE standards. The service is designed for rapid access, aiming for same-day prescribing wherever possible and guaranteeing that waiting times from referral to treatment do not exceed 10 working days, including for those within the criminal justice system. Continuity of care is a priority, ensuring uninterrupted prescribing for individuals released from prison or court, with provision for evening, weekend, and bank holiday coverage. Clinical assessment is mandatory prior to prescribing, and the assessment will follow the individual throughout their recovery journey.

The service will support a range of criminal justice pathways, including Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA), Arrest Referral, Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR), and continuity of care following release from prison. Robust clinical governance will be maintained, aligned to Public Health Wales standards, with regular audits, mandatory training, and compliance with all statutory and regulatory frameworks. The provider will work closely with criminal justice partners—such as police, probation, courts, and prison healthcare—to facilitate effective pathways, reduce harm, and support recovery goals. Performance standards include minimum KPIs of prescribing within 10 working days, same-day opioid substitution therapy (OST) availability, and seamless continuity of care for individuals released from prison.

The service will exclude individuals with significant unmanaged physical or mental health needs, pregnant women, and those over 80 years old, as these cases will be managed within Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT) services.

The service must be provided within the Swansea Bay Footprint. Currently there is only one specialist provider that are able to deliver the Health Boards requirement.

II.2.14) Additional information

This will be awarded following the Most Suitable Provider Process. The contract will be for a One Year

Duration, from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 April 2026

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This is a Provider Selection Regime Wales (PSR Wales) intended approach notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Services (Provider Selection Regime) (Wales) Regulations 2025. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts

Regulations 2015/Procurement Act 2023 do not apply to this award.

This will be awarded following the Most Suitable Provider Process. The contract will be for a One Year Duration, from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027.

The Decision Maker on behalf of the Health Board is Mrs Hannah Roan, Assistant Director of Planning & Partnerships - Commissioning & Sustainability.

(WA Ref:162228)