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Contract

Community MSK Service in BLMK

NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-019213

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04af46

Published 6 May 2025, 4:55pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

3rd Floor, Arndale House, The Mall

Luton

LU1 2LJ

Email

agem.procurementblmk@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH21 - Luton

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/>

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

Community MSK Service in BLMK

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NHS Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board are seeking a suitable organisation for the provision of Community MSK Service including support for chronic pain in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. The key objective is to enable patients with MSK conditions and those living with chronic pain to live a full and healthy life.

The Service provider will offer a standardised, transparent, and coordinated patient pathway for MSK patients in a responsible and environmentally sustainable way across all relevant healthcare settings in BLMK. The Service provider will ensure patients receive a consistent experience, feel supported, informed and empowered throughout the whole pathway and receive the optimal treatment at the right time. The contract will be for a period of 10 years commencing on 01st December 2025.

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: £120,197,800

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH21 - Luton

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board are seeking a suitable organisation for the provision of Community MSK Service including support for chronic pain in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. The key objective is to enable patients with MSK conditions and those living with chronic pain to live a full and healthy life.

The Service provider will offer a standardised, transparent, and coordinated patient pathway for MSK patients in a responsible and environmentally sustainable way across all relevant healthcare settings in BLMK. The Service provider will ensure patients receive a consistent experience, feel supported, informed and empowered throughout the whole pathway and receive the optimal treatment at the right time.

The Service provider will need to provide a high-quality experience, ensuring patients are triaged and treated as early as possible in their pathway to prevent worsening of symptoms, improve outcomes, reduce unnecessary secondary care activity, and avoidable repeat referrals.

The Service will reduce health inequalities across the BLMK geographical area by engaging and working with local community services and groups, to improve access and up-take of MSK services across the BLMK footprint. This will include some focused activity within targeted areas of BLMK, as highlighted by the Health Needs assessment and Health Inequalities studies.

The Service provider will work collaboratively with ICS partners, including the Social Prescribing Link Workers, Community Hubs and the VCSE sector to support residents to

lead economically active lives.

The Service provider will consider its impact on the environment, designing and delivering services in a way which minimises its carbon footprint.

This notice is an intention to award a contract under the competitive process and the contract for the new service will be for a period of 10 years commencing on 01st December 2025. It is anticipated that the service provision resultant of this procurement will have a maximum value of £120,197,800 (excluding VAT) over the term of the contract.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 80

Price - Weighting: 20

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-033838](#)

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

2 May 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 5

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 0

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Connect Health Ltd

Newcastle

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKC - North East (England)

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £120,197,800

Total value of the contract/lot: £120,197,800

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

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 standstill period begins on the day after the publication of this notice. Representations by providers must be made to the relevant authority by midnight on 16th May 2025 via the Atamis messaging system for this procurement. This contract has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award a contract under the competitive process of the PSR.

The relative importance of the key criteria that the relevant authority used to make a decision, the rationale for the relative importance of the key criteria are available within Section 27.1.1 of Document 1 - Competitive Process Overview and Instructions. The rationale for choosing the provider is in line with the key criteria as stated within Section 27.1.1 of Document 1 - Competitive Process Overview and Instructions.

The BLMK ICB gave approval of this in May 2025 at the scheduled ICB's Board Meeting. Conflicts of interests have been managed in line with ICB's Conflict of Interest and Standards of Business Conduct Policy.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit

Cardinal Square, 10 Nottingham Road

Derby

DE1 3QT

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk/>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

NHS England

7&8 Wellington Place

Leeds

LS1 4AP

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/>