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Planning

Solent NHS Trust Pathology Testing Services and Kits Provider Selection Regime

Solent NHS Trust

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-021503

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-047d1b

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Solent NHS Trust

Highpoint Venue, Bursledon Road

Southampton

SO19 8BR

Contact

Commercial Team

Email

commercial@solent.nhs.uk

Telephone

+44 3001233920

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ32 - Southampton

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

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

Solent NHS Trust Pathology Testing Services and Kits Provider Selection Regime

Reference number

C295720

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85111800 - Pathology services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Solent (known as the lead provider) has been providing Level 3 Integrated Sexual Health and HIV services (SHHS) since 2012 and has recently been awarded a new contract from 2024 to 2031, with the option to extend for a further two years.

Solent's services identify as core community provision across Southampton, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and other parts of Hampshire.

As part of the core offer, Solent is commissioned to provide an online STI pathology testing and kits service to target patients that do not attend our services and/or patients with low risk symptoms that attend clinics.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £12,522,816

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ3 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Solent NHS Trust is looking to work with one pathology provider to deliver the Online STI and HIV testing and kits provision within Southampton, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and Hampshire.

The aim of the service is to provide an online service that compliments and supports the overarching Level 3 Integrated SHHS delivered by Solent.

The main objectives are:

- To increase use of online services and remote pathways that improve scope for individuals to have their testing and advice needs met where appropriate without face to face contact with SHHS.
- To provide online STI self-sampling kits including samples from extra-genital sites.
- To evaluate the service through feedback from users, to ensure on-going improvement of this service.
- To offer an STI and HIV testing service in a non-clinical area when working with vulnerable patients that do not have IT access or who are unable to receive postal kits to a home address.
- To ensure that all residents aged 15-24 are offered a Chlamydia screen via a remote (home) testing pathway as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme with the aim to achieve the chlamydia diagnostic rate.

The service will provide:

- Full STI and HIV testing for anyone over the age of 16 years. For people aged 15–24 years they will have an option to access Chlamydia only testing.
- Provision and dispatch of postal STI and HIV kits.
- Results processing via a results management system that integrates with the services electronic patient record (Inform) and patient text messaging service.
- A service for Southampton, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and Hampshire residents.
- There will be a separate ad hoc service available for anyone living outside of area.

The service model excludes:

- A requirement for the pathology provider to deliver an online algorithm to identify risk and required testing, as this is already provided as part of the pre-established SHHS Electronic Patient Record system.

The pathology provider will be able to provide full STI testing to include:

- HIV testing
- Syphilis
- Syphilis RPR for patient with past infection

- Hepatitis C core antibody
- Hepatitis B core antibody
- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea
- Gonorrhoea Test of Cure
- Mycoplasma Genitalium for Test of Cure
- Urea and Electrolytes
- Extra genital site testing

II.2.14) Additional information

This market engagement exercise asks prospective providers to complete a market engagement questionnaire. The outcome of this market engagement will help inform the Trust of the current and future capacity and capability of the market and will be considered with other evidence to inform the approach.

This market engagement will allow the Trust to make a fair and transparent informed decision on what appropriate next procurement steps to undertake. The subsequent potential procurement will be governed by the Provider Selection Regime. It is possible that as a result of this exercise, a formal tender process will not be required but instead a simpler provider selection process will be undertaken. Where it is noted that competition is absent, direct awards may be considered. All providers will be notified of next steps following the conclusion of this market engagement exercise.

Participation for this market engagement closes at 17:00hrs 29 July 2024

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

16 September 2024

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

Information relating to the tender is available within Atamis. Select this link to access the Atamis system: <https://healthfamily.force.com/s/Welcome>. Select 'Opportunities' and then select the relevant Solent NHS Trust opportunity. Once registered, press the 'Register Interest' to login and register your interest. Once you have registered your interest, you may view the documents, submit clarification requests through the messaging function and complete the Requirements questionnaire. If you have any issues please contact the Atamis helpdesk on 0800 9956035 or email support-health@atamis.co.uk All correspondence must be through Atamis. Potential Bidders must not communicate directly with Solent NHS Trust staff regarding this tender.

Any interest shown in the pre-tender market engagement does not constitute a commitment to participate in a procurement exercise. Failure to show interest does not restrict providers from participating in any future procurement exercise.