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Award

## **Autism diagnostic assessments for children (3 - 11 years) living in North and West Kent**

Kent Community Health N H S Foundation Trust

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-022157

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-035b00

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### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Kent Community Health N H S Foundation Trust

TRINITY HOUSE, 110-120 UPPER PEMBERTON, EUREKA PARK, KENNINGTON

ASHFORD

TN25 4AZ

#### **Contact**

Sarah Woodcock

#### **Email**

[sarah.woodcock2@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.woodcock2@nhs.net)

#### **Telephone**

+44 03001236683

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Autism diagnostic assessments for children (3 - 11 years) living in North and West Kent

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85100000 - Health services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Provision of a bespoke, community-based team of appropriately qualified and experienced medical professionals that are competent and have expertise in undertaking Autism Spectrum Conditions diagnostic services for children and young people aged 3 - 11 years referred to them through the KCHFT Community paediatric service.

KCHFT community paediatric will refer on service users who are 3 - 11 years who have been identified as having a potential Autistic Spectrum Condition and who are currenting on the community paediatric waiting list for an autism diagnostic assessment. The service will cover the geographic area of Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and west Kent all referrals will be registered with a GP within these geographical areas.

The provider of the specialist community based multidisciplinary team will provide a timely, integrated, person-centred diagnostic assessment. The provider will ensure that their clinical professional team has expertise in the assessment of ASC in children and young people.

Following assessment, the provider will make recommendations to include how the service user can access existing resources and support from local services, signposting to community and voluntary organisations. Any recommendations in regards to accessing health services, social care and/or mental health services for any identified needs will need to be in line with each service's existing referral criteria.

#### **Predicted activity**

A minimum of 30 diagnostic assessments per month for 6 - 7 months (September 2022-March 2023)

A maximum of 60 diagnostic assessments per month for 6 - 7 months (September 2022-March 2023)

Total activity: 210 - 420

#### **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: £630,000

### **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Provision of Autism Spectrum Disorder clinics including assessment and diagnosis for children and young people 3 years to 11 years in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and west Kent delivered over a 7-month period (September 2022 - March 2023)

The provider will contribute to the bespoke face to face clinical MDTs for ASC assessment and diagnostics provided by KCHFT.

The provider will provide a suitably qualified and experienced team of clinical staff (the Team) comprising of the following as appropriate:

Either:

- A consultant community paediatrician; or
- A consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist

Plus

- A clinical psychologist; and/or
- A speech and language therapist; and/or
- An occupational therapist

The Team will be (as appropriate):

- registered with the relevant professional regulatory body, e.g. Health Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- clinically supervised by the provider, ensuring that all work falls within their Governance Framework.

The Team will undertake autism specific case history (using a standardised case history format) and a clinical observation assessment for autism reaching a conclusion regarding diagnosis and sharing this with the family at the time of assessment.

The autism diagnostic assessments will be undertaken utilising appropriate clinical

assessment tools, e.g. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and clinical judgement to support the differential diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The provider's clinical staff will supply and use their own Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) Kits for each clinical assessment undertaken as well as the relevant ADOS Module forms that are required as part of the assessment (the cost of these forms will be covered by the provider).

All autism assessments will be carried out by two or three clinicians one of whom will always be either a consultant community paediatrician or consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist. The others will be, either, a clinical psychologist, a speech and language therapist or an occupational therapist.

All assessments will follow the format detailed below:

- ADOS and developmental history carried out simultaneously
- Team confer and reach conclusion
- Conclusion offered to parents immediately with opportunity for feedback and questions

Full diagnostic reports with signposting to local services will be sent out six to eight weeks after the assessment.

Written reports completed by the provider following each assessment will be distributed directly to the child's family and relevant professionals. Copies will be sent electronically via secure email ([nhs.net](mailto:nhs.net) or similarly encrypted email) and within six to eight weeks of the assessment being undertaken, to the KCHFT Community Paediatric Service to be added to the clinical files.

The provider will ensure that the content of the reports are clinically appropriate to the assessment carried out and details the assessment findings and recommendations made by their staff during the assessment.

A full audit of the service will be provided at the end of the contract to include statistics on diagnosis rates, satisfaction scores and feedback from parents.

An identified provider staff member to be available five days per week as project manager for KCHFT staff to liaise with as required.

Where the individual exhibits behaviour which places them at risk of offending, then onward referral to the local forensic service for assessment may be required.

Service Coverage - Hours

The provider will deliver a minimum of 30 assessments per month, which is available throughout accepted business working times of 09.00hrs to 17.00hrs, Monday to Friday, some evenings e.g. 18.00hrs - 21.00hrs and most weekends (Saturday and Sunday) 09.00hrs - 17.00hrs

Scheduling of appointments (days and times) will be agreed by KCHFT with the provider based on staff availability and/or room availability at the sites being used.

Work will take place at KCHFT sites detailed below (although the venue may be changed in response to clinical requirements or room availability):

- Heathside Centre, Invicta House, Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent ME17 4AH
- Gravesham Community Hospital, Bath Street, Gravesend DA11 0DG

#### Reports / Information to service users

There will be a maximum of 8 weeks from completion of assessment to the provision of a written report with recommendations which incorporates:

- Patient details
- Report author, date and those present during assessment
- Documents seen before and during assessment
- Diagnostic tools used, purpose and respective contributors
- Referee history (e.g. developmental, family, educational)
- Referee presentation (e.g. appearance, communication, empathy)
- Diagnosis (e.g. meeting criteria, traits contributing to diagnosis, severity, further information required)
- Recommendations (e.g. further assessments, signposting).
- Sign off and assessor declaration

The Supplier will ensure that the content of the reports are clinically appropriate to the assessment carried out and details the assessment findings and recommendations made by

their staff during the assessment

A full audit of the service will be provided at the end of the contract to include statistics on diagnosis rates, satisfaction scores and feedback from service users and their families / carers.

An identified staff member from the Supplier to be available five days per week as project manager for KCHFT staff to liaise with as required.

Location

The service will be carried out at the sites detailed below (although the venue may be changed in response to clinical requirements or room availability):

- Heathside Centre, Invicta House, Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent ME17 4AH
- Gravesham Community Hospital, Bath Street, Gravesend DA11 0DG

Where delivering face to face clinics the provider will ensure that staff are able to travel in order to deliver services across the designated KCHFT sites in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and west Kent, in order to ensure that service users are able to access services in their local areas.

The provider will ensure equitable access to their services and may include the use of technologies / digital provision, where agreed with KCHFT and appropriate to do so.

Delivery period

1 September 2022 - 31 March 2023

## **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

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## 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:

We have commenced the process to undertake a full procurement but as this process will take us 6 - 7 months to complete to ensure we continue to meet the needs of children and young people currently referred to KCHFT community paediatric service awaiting an autism diagnostic assessment we are going to use the provider (Psicon Ltd) we have contracted with previously via a single tender waiver for the work that needs to be undertake this financial year (2022/23).

We are doing this subject to a full competitive procurement and contract being in place for April 2023 to allow all potential suppliers equal opportunity to bid for future work.

KCHFT will undertake a full procurement for this service provision commencing in August / September 2022 which treats all suppliers fairly and allows all potential suppliers equal opportunity to bid.

The process will including but is not limited to:

- market engagement understand market capacity and capability,
- agreement from the trust on contract length, and
- ensure robust contract defining supplier service requirements, service levels to be met to ensure supplier performance.

Estimated timeline is outlined below for an open procedure and is subject to further discussions:

- o Market engagement/RFI - now till Aug 22
- o Procurement doc prep - now Sept 22
- o Procurement out to market - Sept 22- Nov 22



- o Evaluation of tenders - Nov 22 - Jan 23
- o Procurement report, Trust sign off and standstill - Jan-Feb 23
- o Contract sign and mobilisation - Mar 23

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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### **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

#### **Contract No**

DN627627

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

#### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

##### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

2 August 2022

##### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

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

##### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Psicon

15 NEW DOVER ROAD

CANTERBURY

CT1 3AS

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03613914

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £630,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

KENT COMMUNITY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

TRINITY HOUSE, 110-120 UPPER PEMBERTON, EUREKA PARK, KENNINGTON

ASHFORD

TN25 4AZ

Country

United Kingdom