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Planning

Community Anticoagulation Services - Bromley

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Prior information notice without call for competition

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-023042

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-036021

Published 18 August 2022, 7:06pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board

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Country

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Region code

UKI61 - Bromley

NHS Organisation Data Service

QKK

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.selondonics.org/icb/>

Buyer's address

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=63435cfb-171f-ed11-8117-005056b64545>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=63435cfb-171f-ed11-8117-005056b64545>

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

Community Anticoagulation Services - Bromley

Reference number

PRJ1181

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a Prior Information Notice. NHS South East London (NHS SEL ICB, hereafter referred to as "The Authority") invites Expressions of Interest (EoIs) and completion of a Market Engagement Questionnaire from all suitable providers, who are capable of delivering the required Community Anticoagulation services in Bromley or who wish to provide feedback on the Authority's proposals.

NHS South East London - Bromley borough - has a community anticoagulation service which is currently delivered via 6 clinics and home visiting service. The service includes:

- Initiation of anticoagulation treatment: both Direct Oral Anti-Coagulants (DOAC) and Warfarin (majority of new referrals are initiated on DOAC)
- Around 22 new referrals per month, accepting from primary and secondary care
- Monitoring of warfarin patients (700 under the service, around 1030 appointments per month)
- Home visiting to housebound patients eligible for the community service (around 320 visits per month)
- Undertaking measures to bring patients back into therapeutic INR range, however onward referral to secondary care is facilitated when necessary.

- Undertaking switches between Direct Oral Anti-Coagulants (DOAC) as appropriate during initiation period.
- Service delivered by pharmacist leads and Independent Prescribers (IPs). Clinical supervision is outsourced to a hospital-based consultant (not based in Bromley, but within SEL).

This contract is due to expire on 31/03/2023 and NHS South East London is seeking expressions of interest and feedback on proposals from capable suppliers ahead of launching a procurement process to determine the service provider for the services from 01/04/2023.

The annual contract value is expected to be between £320,000 and £370,000. This leaves a maximum 3-year contract value of £1,110,000 and a maximum 5-year contract value of £1,850,000.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £1,850,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI61 - Bromley

Main site or place of performance

The services must be delivered from community settings in Bromley

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

5c Service - Requirements

Our aim is to continue to ensure a comprehensive community anticoagulation service providing initiation of treatment and monitoring of warfarin patients in the community. This

will serve patients aged 16 and over and registered with a Bromley GP. Referrals come from primary and secondary care.

The accessibility of community setting locations and point of care testing in the current service has gained positive feedback from service users. Ensuring convenience and accessibility to Bromley patients is an important feature of the service.

Home visiting to housebound patients (including care home / nursing home settings) from clinicians who can review and change treatments in person means everyone clinically eligible for the service receives a high-quality level of care and treatment. Ensuring a high-quality service to housebound patients is an important requirement.

The minimum requirements of the service are to:

- Provide swift, equitable and convenient access to care in a range of community-based locations across the borough and a domiciliary service;
- Provide continuity of care for patients and minimal waiting times;
- Treat patients with dignity and respect, and keep them fully informed and educated about their care so they are able to make decisions about their care in partnership with healthcare professionals;
- Enhance the confidence and develop the skills of all Provider staff who have an interest in anticoagulation monitoring;
- Provide a streamlined patient pathway through collaborative working with local primary, community and secondary care providers.

The service will comprise:

- Initiation of anticoagulation - DOAC (Direct Oral Anti-Coagulants) or Warfarin therapy;
- Under NHS guidelines Edoxaban must be the first choice in DOAC treatment
- Patients initiated on DOACs are discharged back to the care of their GP once treatment is stable.
- On-going monitoring of INR (International Normalised Ratio) for the purposes of ensuring the Warfarin dose remains therapeutic.
- The Provider shall employ Near Patient Testing (NPT) to determine patients' INR using the approved and appropriate equipment;

- Review of DOAC management until patient's treatment is optimal and the patient can be discharged to the GP for long-term management;
- Administration of Vitamin K where clinically appropriate
- Testing and providing dosing advice to patients, including recording of this advice within the patients hand held record book (ie. Yellow Book)
- Prescribing initial prescription(s) of Warfarin or DOAC. Note ongoing prescribing of Warfarin will be undertaken by the patients GP.
- Thorough patient education, with information provided in line with the Accessible Information standards.
- Domiciliary visits for housebound patients (including care home / nursing home settings) for initiation and management of anticoagulation therapy;
- Systematic clinical data collection to allow a transparent analysis of cost benefits and patient satisfaction;
- Service will integrate with the Bromley Referral Optimisation Protocol which guides GPs through set criteria to find the right referral form and service.
- The service will be expected to be flexible and adapt in response to new or changing national or regional guidance on anticoagulation.

Warfarin Monitoring Activity

There has been a significant decline of 56% in the numbers of people on Warfarin in the community being monitored between 2018 and 2022 (with a corresponding decline in the number of "Warfarin follow up" appointments). This decline is mainly due to natural causes or people requesting switches of treatment to a DOAC. Almost all new referrals for anticoagulation treatment are initiated on a DOAC.

Please see our activity assumptions for the contract term and finance information on the associated documentation.

Interested providers will have to factor in how this decline in activity will be managed in terms of clinic space and staffing required to ensure the service is sustainable.

The levels of other areas of activity such as new referrals, DOAC follow ups, and home visiting are not expected to decline significantly.

We are offering a block contract to even out the revenue to support providers in their

planning.

Innovations and opportunities

Managing switches of treatment in the community

DOACs are the frontline treatment in anticoagulation and provide other benefits to patients by removing the need for regular blood tests and appointments. However, in Bromley switching treatment from Warfarin to DOACs currently requires referral to the hospital team.

The community service currently refers around 60 patients a year to the hospital team to manage switches of treatment from Warfarin to DOAC.

SEL ICB - Bromley is looking at the feasibility of managing switches from Warfarin to DOAC in the community. Is it possible to manage switches of treatment from Warfarin to DOAC in the community? What are the risks and mitigations given this would require (if added to the specification) a proactive review of the cohort, identification of suitable patients, engagement with patients, and the coordination of testing and switching of medication for individuals?

II.2.14) Additional information

We are offering a three-year contract with an option for a two-year extension.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

3 October 2022

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Interested providers are required to express an interest in this project and complete the Market Engagement Questionnaire available on the tender portal before the 5th September 2022 at 12:00 (noon). Completed Market Engagement Questionnaires can be submitted via the portal messaging facility.

Portal link:

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=63435cfb-171f-ed11-8117-005056b64545>

Any communications or clarification questions about this contract opportunity must be submitted via the messaging facility for this project on ProContract eTendering portal.

The deadline for any clarification questions is 12:00 (noon) on 30th August 2022.

This Market Engagement process is being managed by the Procurement & Contracting Hub (hosted by NHS North East London) on behalf of NHS South East London in connection with a process under Regulation 75 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations" (as amended)). The services to which this Procurement relates fall within the "Light Touch Regime" (LTR) governing procurement of Health, Social, Education and Other service contracts. No indication shall be taken to mean that the Contracting Authority intends to hold itself bound to any of the Regulations, save those applicable to LTR provisions.