

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/024014-2023>

Planning

## **Talking Therapies Service**

NHS Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-024014

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03f03d

Published 16 August 2023, 11:53am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

NHS Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board

County Hall, Martineau Ln

Norwich

NR1 2DH

#### **Email**

[David.Bailey1@nhs.net](mailto:David.Bailey1@nhs.net)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKH15 - Norwich and East Norfolk

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.improvinglivesnw.org.uk/about-us/our-nhs-integrated-care-board-icb/icb-contact/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.improvinglivesnw.org.uk/about-us/our-nhs-integrated-care-board-icb/icb-contact/>

### **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**

Talking Therapies Service

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85100000 - Health services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

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

NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (referred to as the Commissioner) are inviting suitably qualified to attend a Market Engagement Event in relation to the Provision of NHS Talking Therapies Service.

The service shall provide community orientated, evidence-based psychological therapies to people in Norfolk and Waveney from the age of 16 with 'common' mental health problems - aligned to the NHS Talking Therapies Manual (2023) (formerly known as Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)) and locally branded as the "The Wellbeing Service" - and support the Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health ambitions.

The service shall be flexible and responsive to the population needs and operate a biopsychosocial model of care; taking an individual's needs into consideration to plan holistic and integrated interventions to improve and population wellbeing, relevant to the stage of life of the service user. This shall include an approach to support and intervention based on individual need and with fluidity over the course of individuals contact with the NHS Talking Therapies service – providing a service that can adapt and move people through appropriate types of support in the service as needs indicate. The service will work closely with local communities, providers, and the Integrated Care System (ICS) to ensure this is implemented effectively and the service will ensure people receive warm handovers to other services which can support their mental health and the wider determinants of mental health.

The purpose of this advert is to invite the market to engage, provide feedback on the draft specification (to be shared via this portal) and register for an online market engagement event, which is scheduled for Friday 22nd September 2023 at 1pm for the provision of the

NHS Norfolk and Waveney Talking Therapies Service. By testing key themes from the new service model with the provider market, the Commissioner is seeking valuable information to ensure that the Service Specification is fit for purpose.

The deadline for Soft Market Testing responses is by 17:00 hours on 22nd September 2023.

Please note this is a market testing exercise and does not commit the ICB to carry out any further procurement process. Current services will remain in place during this period in line with existing contracts and service level agreements.

Any future opportunity will be advertised in accordance with the regulations. It is anticipated that the contract period will be for an initial period of 5 years with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years, commencing 1st September 2024.

A draft specification and indicative contract value will be shared, via this portal, ahead of the market engagement event – both will be subject to review following the early engagement.

The indicative timescales for the tender release date is scheduled for October 2023 but may be subject to change depending on the engagement feedback.

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

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

NUTS codes

- UKH1 - East Anglia

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

To Register your Interest in attending the Market Engagement Event or seek additional information please use the link below and published ProJet reference: <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>. Project Reference C200686.

#### **Service Description**

The service shall provide community orientated, evidence-based psychological therapies to people in Norfolk and Waveney from the age of 16 year and over with 'common' mental health problems, such as low mood and anxiety-based needs. This model should be

aligned to the NHS Talking Therapies Manual (2023) and support the Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health ambitions.

The service shall be flexible and responsive to the population needs and operate a biopsychosocial model of care; taking an individual's needs into consideration to plan holistic and integrated interventions to improve and population wellbeing, relevant to the stage of life of the service user. This shall include an approach to support and intervention based on individual need and with fluidity over the course of individuals contact with the NHS Talking Therapies service – providing a service that can adapt and move people through appropriate types of support in the service as needs indicate. The service will work closely with local communities, providers, and the Integrated Care System (ICS) to ensure this is implemented effectively and the service will ensure people receive warm handovers to other services which can support their mental health and the wider determinants of mental health.

Further to this, the service will:

- proactively engage with population groups and communities where there are recognised risks, low rates of engagement and/or health inequalities;
- employ practices which actively include those who are seldom heard in NHS Talking Therapies services;
- embed coproduction and service user involvement within service improvement projects;
- take a proactive and strategic approach to system connection and planning for current and forecast population needs;
- innovate to meet the needs of the population, communities and individuals in an effective and efficient way.

The aim of this Expression of Interest is to;

1. provide the market with visibility of the proposed opportunity;
2. support the ICB decision making to inform the future commissioning of services (as applicable);
3. to help define the future service approach and model;
4. to gauge the level of interest from the market of capable providers with capacity across the region to deliver the services noted above.
5. Invite interested Providers to attend a Market Engagement Event on Friday 22nd September 2023 at 1pm.

A further tender advertisement will be issued at the appropriate time. You will not be disadvantaged in any subsequent tender process if you choose not to attend this market engagement event as the market engagement information will form part of any future tendering documentation, but the Commissioners wish to understand your views on the proposed model, activity and financial envelope.

The deadline for completing the Soft Market Testing responses is by 17:00 hours on 22nd

September 2023. Registration to attend the market engagement event closes 17:00 hours 21st September 2023.

Please note this is a market testing exercise and does not commit the ICB to carry out any further procurement process. Current services will remain in place during this period in line with existing contracts and service level agreements. Any future opportunity will be advertised in accordance with the regulations.

May we ask that you register your attendance for the Market Engagement Event via the messaging functionality within the Atamis portal. May we also ask you to note that the draft service specification, indicative contract value and Engagement Questionnaire will not be immediately available and we anticipate they will be uploaded to the portal towards the end of August 2023.

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

16 October 2023

---

## **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