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Contract

Mental Health Practitioners and Physical Health Checks for Severe Mental Health Problems (SMI)

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-024372

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-051c45

Published 21 May 2025, 6:59pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Rd,

Basildon

SS14 3HG

Contact

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Email

cariad.burgess@attain.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH3 - Essex

National registration number

99E

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.midandsouthessex.ics.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

Mental Health Practitioners and Physical Health Checks for Severe Mental Health Problems (SMI)

Reference number

ACE-0826-2025-MSE

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85323000 - Community health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Urgent award notice under the Provider Selection Regime 2023 for the provision of Mental

Health Practitioners in Primary Care Networks and Physical Health Checks for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Services for NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (herein referred to as 'the Authority').

The awarded contract is for the provision of Mental Health Practitioners in Primary Care Networks and Physical Health Checks for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Services comprises two (2) services:

1. The provision of a Physical Health Check for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Service, aimed at improving mental health outcomes by monitoring and managing the physical health of individuals with severe mental illnesses (SMI). The aim is early detection, prevention, and intervention to improve overall health outcomes.
2. The provision of the Mental Health Practitioner in Primary Care Networks Service, which provides specialist mental health support within GP practices or primary care networks. They assess, triage, and manage mild to moderate mental health conditions, offering brief interventions, signposting to appropriate services, and working alongside GPs, social workers, and community teams to improve access to mental health care.

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: £722,703

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

Main site or place of performance

Mid and South Essex Health Economy

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Urgent award notice under the Provider Selection Regime 2023 for the provision of Mental Health Practitioners in Primary Care Networks and Physical Health Checks for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Services for NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (herein referred to as 'the Authority').

The awarded contract is for the provision of Mental Health Practitioners in Primary Care Networks and Physical Health Checks for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Services comprises two (2) services:

1. The provision of a Physical Health Check for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Service, aimed at improving mental health outcomes by monitoring and managing the physical health of individuals with severe mental illnesses (SMI). The aim is early detection, prevention, and intervention to improve overall health outcomes.

2. The provision of the Mental Health Practitioner in Primary Care Networks Service, which provides specialist mental health support within GP practices or primary care networks. They assess, triage, and manage mild to moderate mental health conditions, offering brief interventions, signposting to appropriate services, and working alongside GPs, social workers, and community teams to improve access to mental health care.

This contract is being awarded on an urgent basis due to the abandoned Most Suitable Provider (MSP) procurement process (Notice Number 2025/S 000-003056, Notice Reference 2025-040279) necessitating the continuation of services with the current provider to avoid disruption. A delay in awarding this contract through standard procurement routes would have led to a service gap, negatively impacting service users by increasing waiting times and deteriorating mental health conditions.

Due to urgent circumstances, the Authority has awarded a 12 month contract to incumbent provider: Vita Health Group

The contract period is for a total of 12 months from 01st April 2025 - 31st March 2026. The total aggregate contract value is estimated at £722,703.00

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: to address immediate risks to safety and quality of care /
Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 100

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

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:

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under 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 in this award.

Rationale as to why this provider has been awarded:

In line with the guidance for exemptions in urgent situations under the Public Contracts Regulations (PSR), the current provider has been awarded the contract due to the following reasons:

- Continuity of Care: The current provider has established relationships with service users, ensuring seamless care and avoiding disruption that could arise from transitioning to a new provider.
- Immediate Capacity and Expertise: The provider possesses the necessary infrastructure, workforce, and clinical expertise to continue delivering services without requiring additional mobilisation time.
- Avoidance of Service Gap: Appointing a new provider would require a significant transition period, during which service users could experience delays or a temporary lack of access to critical mental health support.
- Compliance with Urgent Procurement Regulations: this urgent award is justified as the ICB has identified extreme urgency that prevents the implementation of a competitive tender process to cover the service provision. The abandoned MSP procurement process has necessitated this approach to protect patient care, whilst a competitive procurement approach is being undertaken by the Authority to identify the most suitable and capable provider in order to award a single contract for these services.

•Minimisation of Service Disruption: The incumbent provider is already embedded within the service infrastructure, ensuring minimal risk of disruption during the continuation of the contract.

Proposed review date to conduct a full application of the PSR for that service: N/A as the Authority is undergoing pre-procurement planning for a competitive procurement process to determine the most technically capable provider to award these services.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

1 April 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

VITA HEALTH GROUP LIMITED

3 Dorset Rise,

London

EC4Y 8EN

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH - East of England

Companies House

05002629

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £722,703

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under 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 in this award.

Proposed review date to conduct a full application of the PSR for that service: N/A as the Authority is undergoing pre-procurement planning for a competitive procurement process to determine the most technically capable provider to award these services.

Details of Decision Makers:

Mid and South Essex ICB Operation Group

Mid and South Essex ICB Executive Team

Rationale as to why this provider has been awarded:

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- Continuity of Care: The current provider has established relationships with service users, ensuring seamless care and avoiding disruption that could arise from transitioning to a new provider.

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- Avoidance of Service Gap: Appointing a new provider would require a significant transition period, during which service users could experience delays or a temporary lack of access to critical mental health support.
- Compliance with Urgent Procurement Regulations: this urgent award is justified as the ICB has identified extreme urgency that prevents the implementation of a competitive tender process to cover the service provision. The abandoned MSP procurement process has necessitated this approach to protect patient care, whilst a competitive procurement approach is being undertaken by the Authority to identify the most suitable and capable provider in order to award a single contract for these services.
- Minimisation of Service Disruption: The incumbent provider is already embedded within the service infrastructure, ensuring minimal risk of disruption during the continuation of the contract.

No conflicts of interest have been identified. The Authority is managing COIs as part of the procurement process.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Rd,

Basildon

SS14 3HG

Email

cariad.burgess@attain.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom