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Planning

Expressions of Interest for Autism Services for NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Midlands and Lancashire CSU

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-027628

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02f35a

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Midlands and Lancashire CSU

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKG12 - Worcestershire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>

I.3) Communication

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

Expressions of Interest for Autism Services for NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) without a further call for competition. In the event that a full procurement exercise is undertaken, that only those providers who respond to this EOI will be invited to tender.

NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wishes to seek EOIs from suppliers interested in providing:

- (i) Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Service for Young People and Adults (16 Years and over) (Lot 1), and/or
- (ii) Autism Support Services for Young People and Adults (16 years old and over) (Lot 2).

The CCG is considering letting one or more contracts for the above services for a period of 2 years with the option to extend for up to another 2 years at its discretion. The CCG currently envisages the contract(s) will mobilise from the 1st April 2022 following a formal procurement exercise. (N.B.: all dates may be subject to change). The CCG reserves the right to amend any proposed lotting strategy for any future procurement exercise.

For further details relating to the two aforementioned services, please refer to the attachments section in the Expressions of Interest questionnaire (at MLCSU Bravo e-procurement portal: PQQ 500).

The CCG is inviting expressions of interest from providers with the capacity, capability and relevant experience in these services. Whilst the CCG has broadly identified what it requires,

it has not yet established in detail how that should be best delivered, i.e., the Autism Support Services for Young People and Adults (16 years old and over) will be a new service for the Herefordshire and Worcestershire locality in a service area which is not well developed nationally. As a result, the CCG may consider arrangements which bring together providers and the local voluntary sector, e.g., a consortium or a lead provider arrangement.

The precise number of autistic people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire is not known as there is no formal 'register'. However, if it is estimated that 1% of the population is autistic, then there are approximately 9,000 autistic people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The proposed services must be equally accessible to people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and must be responsive to local populations.

Genuinely interested providers are requested to fill in the questionnaire on this MLCSU e-Procurement portal (PQQ 500) and respond by 09.00am on Monday 22nd November 2021. The CCG reserves the right to reject expressions of interest that do not come in within this deadline and do not exhibit sufficient capability and relevant experience.

The CCG will be holding a virtual Market Engagement Event on 9th December 2021 to discuss options and receive feedback on the feasibility of the scope and specification of the Autism Support Services for Young People and Adults (16 years old and over). Further information will be made available about this event in due course. You may register your interest in attending this online event when completing the questionnaire (PQQ 500).

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 2

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Lot 1 and Lot 2

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Services for Adults and Young People (16 years and over)

Lot No

Lot 1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG11 - Herefordshire, County of
- UKG12 - Worcestershire

Main site or place of performance

The counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, England, UK.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The outline service specification is expected to include:

a) Initial contact:

- The service provider will primarily receive referrals from General Practitioners and Specialist Mental Health Services. A completed Autism Spectrum Quotient or AQ10 must be included with the referral. (NICE CG142 recommends that those adults scoring more than 6 out of 10 should be considered for referral for a diagnostic assessment).
- The service provider will be expected to explain the number and purpose of the appointments required to complete the diagnostic assessment pathway.
- The service provider will confirm that the outcome of the assessment will be provision of a support plan with distinct outcomes for the service user.
- Service users presenting at a time of crisis may have to be referred into the Mental Health Crisis Intervention service. The service provider must have appropriate arrangements with this service to ensure speedy referral into the service. and support the service to enable reasonable adjustments to be made. Data regarding this element will need to be reported on.

b) Clinical assessment and diagnosis:

- The service provider will complete a comprehensive assessment using a formal assessment tool such as ADOS-G or other NICE recommended tools.
- The assessment can lead to a clinical diagnosis which should form part of the support plan.
- The service provider will develop a support plan based on the comprehensive assessment, incorporating the risk management plan and including any particular needs (such as adaptations to the social or physical environment), and also taking into account the needs of the family, partner or carer(s).
- The support plan will be shared with the service user's GP/clinician (referrer) and the service user

c) Initial post-diagnostic support

- The service will offer all adults who have received a diagnosis of autism (irrespective of whether they need or have refused further care and support) a follow-up appointment to discuss the implications of the diagnosis, any concerns they have about the diagnosis, and any future care and support they may require. This can be provided through online, telephone call or face-to-face to meet the needs of the individual.
- Support for families and carers should be available following diagnosis. It is expected that this will be a single session provided online or face to face as appropriate.
- The provider will actively support patients to transition to the autism support service commissioned in Herefordshire and/or Worcestershire. The provider is expected to facilitate a seamless transition between the pathways. The Diagnostic service provider will be expected to provide advice on reasonable adjustments to enable the individual service user to access the support they need.

The service provider is expected to adhere to NICE Guideline CG142 general principles of care and offer a multi-disciplinary approach to the diagnostic assessment, and to minimise the length of the pathway from referral to diagnosis, through flexible approach to appointments using face-to-face and digital options to meet the needs of the service user.

Please see attachments section for outline specification of this service.

II.2.14) Additional information

Contract value is circa. £245,000 per annum. Contract term 2 years with option to extend for further 2 years. The current contract is due to expire in March 2022. Contract commencement is expected to be from 1st April 2022. Current demand for the service is approx 36 accepted referrals each month, or 432 annually. This is an increase on the previous year of 23 per month and 277 annually.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Autism Support Service for Young People and Adults (16 years and over)

Lot No

Lot 2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG11 - Herefordshire, County of
- UKG12 - Worcestershire

Main site or place of performance

The counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, England, U.K.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The outline service specification is expected to include:

- Psychoeducation to assist people understand and learn cognitive strategies to manage the impact of autism following diagnosis
- Psychosocial interventions focused on life skills, including activities of daily living, social interaction and isolation, and anxiety and anger management
- Support to access employment, housing and other community services

The service delivery model may include:

- Self-referral or via a third party
- Group work / activities

- Individual work, where a person is unable to access or benefit from group work
- Episodic support
- Signposting where access to a service is supported
- Support to family carers

The target group will be:

- People age 16 and over
- Who are registered with a Herefordshire or Worcestershire GP
- Who have an autism diagnosis
- Who are not currently in receipt of social care or secondary mental health services
- Who are not eligible for aftercare services under the section 117 of the MHA
- Who are not CHC eligible
- Who, in the case of young people, do not have an Education Health and Care Plan (SEND)

The standards of the service will include:

- An offer which is personalised and makes reasonable adjustments
- Differentiated according to age
- An appropriate mix of staff knowledge and skills, trained to at least Tier 2 of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training / DHSC Core Capabilities Framework for Supporting Autistic People
- Compliance with local safeguarding arrangements
- Understanding of and application of the Mental Capacity Act
- Work collaboratively and in partnership with NHS, social care and other services, including the voluntary sector
- Include autistic people in its governance arrangements
- Develop services in continuous co-production with autistic people

The precise number of autistic people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire is not known as there is no formal 'register'. However, if it is estimated that 1% of the population is autistic, then there are approximately 9,000 autistic people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The service must be equally accessible to people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and must be responsive to local populations.

Please see attachments section for outline specification of this service.

II.2.14) Additional information

The value of this lot is £100k in 2022/23, and £290k in 2023/24. Subject to continued NHS funding, the contract would be extended for a further 2 years at £290k per annum. The total potential value of the contract is therefore £970k. Contract commencement is expected to be from 1st April 2022.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 February 2022

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: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

"Light Touch Regime" services: This service is classified as clinical, the value of which comes under the Light Touch Regime services for the purpose of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as specified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations ("Regulations"). The contracting authorities are not voluntarily following any other part of the Regulations. As the CCG is a relevant body for the purpose of the National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) (No 2) Regulations 2013 these Regulations also apply to this procurement. All dates, time periods and values specified in this notice are provisional and the contracting authority reserves the right to change these. Transparency: The contracting

authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and may be required to disclose information received in the course of this service under FOIA or the EIR. In addition, and in accordance with the UK Government's policies on transparency. This service may be subject to possible redactions at the discretion of the contracting authority. Any redactions, whether in relation to information requests under FOIA, the EIR or policies on transparency will be in accordance with those grounds prescribed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Further information on transparency can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-and-contracting-transparency-requirements-guidance>

This Prior Information Notice has been advertised in Contracts Finder UK and Find a Tender Service. Interested providers are advised to register with MLCSU e-Procurement portal Bravo via the following link:

<https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>

The relevant PQQ reference number for this is PQQ_500

To register interest and download the PQQ documentation you will need to follow these steps:

To register on the portal: <https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>

- From the portal (NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Procurement services Portal Home Page, click the 'Click Here to Register' link.
- Accept the terms & conditions for using the portal.
- Complete your organisation & personal details.
- Choose a memorable username and submit.
- You will be sent an email with your unique password.
- Search out PQQ_500

Correspondence and communication will only be dealt with through the Bravo website. For technical support in submitting your expression of interest contact the BravoSolution Helpdesk.