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Planning

Expressions of Interest - Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (West Midlands)

NHS England

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-028441

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0528c8

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

7&8 Wellington Place

Leeds

LS1 4AP

Contact

Neelam Saroe

Email

neelamsaroe@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

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

Expressions of Interest - Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (West Midlands)

Reference number

AG25014

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 (PIN)

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGCSU) on behalf of NHS England – Midlands (West) (referred to as the Commissioner) wish to inform the market of a future procurement opportunity for a Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP). The DESP service is expected to cover the following ICB areas in the West Midlands region: -

1. NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board (STW ICB) and
2. NHS Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (SSOT ICB).

The Commissioner would like to invite all interested providers to participate in an early market assessment questionnaire which will be used as a conduit to ascertain market capability and interest in the opportunity, prior to publication of the formal procurement opportunity in January 2026. The questionnaire will help Commissioners to:

- Gain market views on the viability of procuring the DESP service,
- Determine a structure / lotting strategy of the future procurement and
- Determine length of future contracts
- Gain feedback on the draft published spec (this can be found in the attachments area of Atamis).

The new contract/s is due to commence on 1st January 2027.

If your organisation is interested in this opportunity, then please respond to the early market assessment questions on Atamis and register your interest by following the instructions given below in section II.2.14.1 Additional information.

Please note the deadline for interested providers to complete the early market assessment is 5:00pm on Friday 18th July 2025.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £27,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85121281 - Ophthalmologist services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG2 - Shropshire and Staffordshire

Main site or place of performance

The DESP service is expected to cover the following ICB areas in the West Midlands region: -

1. NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board (STW ICB) and
2. NHS Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (SSOT ICB).

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS England is responsible for commissioning Section 7A Public Health services which include the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP).

The DESP programme/service is designed to detect diabetic retinopathy and other eye conditions in people with diabetes. The programme offers eye screenings to diabetic patients aged 12 and above. Screening appointments are typically offered at local venues linked to the patient's GP practice and HM Prison detained settings.

The goal is to identify any eye problems early on, allowing for timely treatment and reducing the risk of sight loss. If a positive screening result is found, patients are referred to a hospital eye service for further evaluation and management.

NHS England - West Midlands, has reviewed the existing DESP services delivered in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board (STW ICB) and the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (SSOT ICB). These services cater to an eligible population of 119,737 individuals.

With the current contract nearing its end, the new procurement aims to achieve the following benefits:

- Improve patient engagement and outcomes

- Enhance stakeholder relationships to foster collaboration, innovation and continuous improvement in the delivery of the service.
- Quality assurance
- More cost-effective use of NHS resources.

It is anticipated that TUPE will apply to this service going forwards and if applicable, details will be shared as part of any selected process.

The Commissioners intentions are to hold a Market Engagement Event (in advance of launching the formal tender), a further PIN will be published in Autumn 2025 with details of a market engagement event for Providers to register their attendance.

II.2.14) Additional information

This is purely an early engagement exercise; any subsequent procurement will be advertised separately and all organisations wanting to participate will need to respond to the procurement advertisement as and when published.

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

The procurement will be advertised in accordance with the Provider Selection Regime(PSR) Notice. The awarding of this contract will be subject to the HealthCare Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 will not apply to this award.

The Contracting Authority will be using an eTendering system for this market engagement exercise. To express an interest and access the questionnaire go to the 'Live Opportunities' list on the e-tendering portal at the following link: <https://health-family-contract-search.secure.force.com/?searchtype=Projects> and register your interest.

You can search for the opportunity by entering the following contract reference: C364032 - EOI: Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) - NHS England (West Midlands).

Please note the deadline to complete the early market assessment questionnaire is 5:00pm on Friday 18th July.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 December 2025

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

It is the expectation of the Commissioner that the providers will review the contents of this Notice in order to inform their responses to the pre-market engagement questionnaire. Please note the Contract Notice Publish date is only indicative at this time and is subject to change.