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Awarded contract

Mental Health Support Teams in Mid and South Essex

NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice reference: 2021/S 000-031994

Published: 21 December 2021, 10:45pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

Civic Offices 2nd Floor, New Road

Grays

RM17 6SL

Contact

Amy Wilson

Email

amy.wilson@attain.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKH3 - Essex

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.thurrockccq.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 Support Teams in Mid and South Essex

Reference number

ACE-0416-2020-ALC

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice and is intended to provide notice of NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Basildon & Brentwood CCG, NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG, NHS Southend CCG, NHS Thurrock CCG ("the CCG's) intention to award a contract commencing 1st January 2022 that will expiring on 31st December 2024.

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: £3,404,847

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

Main site or place of performance

Mid and South Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice and is intended to provide notice of NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Basildon & Brentwood CCG, NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG, NHS Southend CCG, NHS Thurrock CCG ("the CCG's) intention to award a contract to existing CYP MH Service Provider (NELFT) for the provision of Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) in Mid and South Essex.

Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) are new services designed to support mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in and around schools and colleges. The teams were described in Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a Green Paper and they are a key element of the ambitions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan.

The CCGs are developing a multi-year trajectory and a regional plan for future MHST waves (Waves 5, 7 and 9) from 2022 to 2024 in accordance with NHSE's "Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision Green Paper". A further six teams are being allocated to Mid and South Essex and the proposed total aggregate contract value is £3,404,847.

NHSE have decided nationally to move away from the current annualised bidding process for funding relating to Mental Health Support Teams that CCG's had to undertake previously, to a multi-year approach. This was to ensure the NHS achieve at least 20-25% coverage nationally by 2023/24 in line with the proposals within the in "Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision Green Paper".

Additionally, it means that the NHS can take a longer-term view and thus:

- Ensure more equitable coverage across (& within Regions)
- It will allow local areas more time to plan and prepare for future waves e.g. engaging with key partners locally at an earlier stage.
- It will support local systems and regions transition MHSTs to 'business as usual' in preparation for the expected continuation and expansion of roll out of MHSTs beyond 2023/24.

NHSE/IT's 'Delivery Support Pack' for CCG's stated in the operating principles that as part of the funding being awarded, MHSTs should be additional to, and integrated with, existing support. The CCGs were expected in their funding application to reflect how the MHST offer

is integrated with the existing local offer. NHSE/I set a clear expectation that a broad coalition of partners spanning a range of education settings, local authorities including public health, the voluntary sector, Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) and local providers collaborate with CCGs in steering and supporting local implementation.

In light of considerable mobilisation risks associated with any transfer of service, and the ambitious timescales mandated by NHSE/I, the CCGs decided that the best solution to ensure that children and young people in Mid and South Essex continue to benefit from MHST is to integrate with the CYP MH provider, who is uniquely placed to successfully deliver MHST and its future expansion programme, within the mandated timescales. As such the CCGs propose to observe a 10-day standstill from the date of publication of this VEAT, prior to awarding a contract to NELFT for the provision of MHST wavs 5, 7 and 9, service delivery commencing 1st January 2022 - until 31st Dec 2024.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 0

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

II.2.14) Additional information

The Service to which this procurement relates fall within Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended by as amended by The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, (the "Regulations"). As such, the Contracting Authority does not intend to hold itself bound by any of the Regulations, save those applicable to Schedule 3 Services.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The delivery timescales mandated by NHSE/I in relation to successfully bidding for and then subsequently implementing waves 5, 7 and 9 MHST were ambitious, reflecting the importance attached to further roll out of MHST as a key component of the Mental Health offer for children and young people. In accordance with this national process, early 2021, regions were expected to engage with local systems to develop multi-year trajectories and plans, working with their respective Sustainable Transformation Partnerships or Integrated Care Systems to develop plans for the delivery of MHSTs across waves 5, 7 and 9 their area, with support from NHSEI, DfE & HEE throughout.

In April 2021, the regional trajectories and delivery plans were shared with National team, who conducted an assessment and assurance of such multi-year trajectories and plans. From May 2021 onwards; the regions mobilised the future waves of MHSTs that they have been granted via fair share allocation, through the process. This includes the beginning of MHST workforce recruitment and regions mobilising the new MHSTs with a national support offer. Whilst it is stated that each Region can determine what approach they take to deliver the requirements, there is a clear expectation that regional plans will be developed collaboratively with key partners, overseen by a Multi-Agency Working Group who will make the decision about where future teams are placed.

NHSE/I's 'Delivery Support Pack' for CCG's stated in the operating principles that as part of the funding being awarded, MHSTs should be additional to, and integrated with, existing support. The CCGs were expected in their funding application to reflect how the MHST offer is integrated with the existing local offer. NHSE/I set a clear expectation that a broad coalition of partners spanning a range of education settings, local authorities including public health, the voluntary sector, Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) and local providers collaborate with CCGs in steering and supporting local implementation.

There are significant mobilisation risks, particularly around workforce recruitment and

training to secure competent staff at the appropriate levels of seniority to successfully deliver waves 5, 7 and 9 of the MHST in Mid and South Essex. The scale of work includes; working in partnership with HEE and HEI's to deliver a capable workforce, recruiting staff to teams, supporting staff through training, ensuring the ability to mobilise the appropriate blend of clinical and administrative personnel to deliver MHST, ensuring clear and appropriate local governance of MHSTs, ensuring integration with other elements of the local offer, and working in partnership with Regional Implementation Teams (DfE) and the wider education system to ensure education settings are engaged and ready to receive MHSTs and their service.

In light of these risks and the ambitious timescales mandated by NHSE/I, the CCGs deem that the time limits for the open or restricted procedures or competitive with negotiated procedure cannot be complied with. Even if a provider were identified via an accelerated procurement procedure, there would be insufficient time to complete a robust contract mobilisation involving critical mobilisation risks, particularly around workforce recruitment and training, to meet the delivery trajectory. If the CCGs cannot meet this timeline, there is an unacceptable risk that mid and south Essex will be removed as an area from the NHSE/I pilot scheme and funding will be lost, meaning MHST cannot be delivered in mid and south Essex.

The CCGs decided to integrate with the existing CYP MH provider, who is uniquely placed and the only technically capable provider to successfully deliver MHST and its future expansion programme, within the mandated timescales. As such the CCGs propose to award a contract to NELFT for the provision of MHST commencing 1st April 2022.

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/concession

Title

Mental Health Support Teams in Mid and South Essex

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

19 October 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

NELFT NHS Foundation Trust

CEME Centre - West Wing Marsh Way

Rainham

RM13 8GQ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH3 - Essex

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,404,847

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Contracting Authorities participating in the publication of this VEAT and the award of the contract communicated herein are:

NHS Basildon & Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Road

Basildon

SS14 3HG

<https://basildonandbrentwoodccg.nhs.uk/>

NHS Castle Point and Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group

Pearl House, 12 Castle Road

Rayleigh

SS6 7QF

<https://castlepointandrochfordccg.nhs.uk/>

NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group

6th Floor, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue

Southend-on-Sea

SS1 9SB

<https://southendccg.nhs.uk/>

NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

Wren House, Colchester Road

Chelmsford

CM2 5PF

<https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/>

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Chelmsford

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VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice of England and Wales

Stand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom