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Planning

Provision of Multiple Sclerosis Management Service for Children

NHS England - Specialised Commissioning

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-033046

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-038737

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England - Specialised Commissioning

80 London Road

London

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Contact

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United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

na

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.england.nhs.uk

Buyer's address

<https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/68205>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/Documents/Folder/52947>

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

Provision of Multiple Sclerosis Management Service for Children

Reference number

62208 - Multiple Sclerosis

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGCSU), on behalf of NHS England Highly Specialised Services (referred to as the Commissioner), is undertaking a market engagement exercise to understand the current and future capacity and capability of providers and potential providers within this highly specialised area. All interested parties, including incumbent providers, are encouraged to register their interest and participate in the market engagement questionnaire which will provide feedback to commissioners. Please note that this is not a call for competition although the commissioner would encourage all potential providers to respond to this market engagement exercise. The outcome of this market engagement will help inform commissioners of the current and future capacity and capability of the market and will be considered to inform the commissioning approach.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - North comprising the NHS England Regions: the North East and Yorkshire; the North West,

Lot No

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This exercise is to commission a service that is able to expertly manage the provision of the Multiple Sclerosis Management Service for Children, including patients with suspected Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or equally rare 'MS-like', recurrent acquired demyelinating syndromes (ADS) or who have had a first demyelination episode and have a high risk of relapse which would require a similar treatment approach, including: Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMO, NMOSD) and other AQP4 antibody associated demyelination; Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein (MOG) antibody associated relapsing demyelination and other forms of recurrent relapsing demyelination.

The MS Hub Lead Centres will be geographically spaced across the Regional areas of NHS England as follows:

- i) Lot 1 - North comprising the NHS England Regions: the North East and Yorkshire; the North West,
- ii) Lot 2 - the Midlands comprising the NHS England Regions: the Midlands; the East of England
- iii) Lot 3 - London and the South: comprising the South East; the South West; London

We would like to hear from incumbent and potential paediatric providers who can meet the following essential criteria:

I. Have staff in place with paediatric neuroinflammatory expertise as listed in the service specification :

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/multiple-sclerosis-mgt-for-children-sept-2017.pdf>);

- II. Be currently actively managing, as an expert care provider and have seen face to face in the last year, a minimum of 20 children with paediatric Remitting Demyelinating Syndromes (RDS) (including first presentation or first event MS or high risk RDS);
- III. Be actively prescribing innovative therapeutic pharmacological MS treatments for these children using the NHS England BluTeq online system;
- IV. Have received in a tertiary capacity for expert review, five to ten new paediatric referrals of acute multiple sclerosis/MS-like cases per year in each of the last three years (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. With the requests being for second opinions/advice on the treatment plan.
- V. Must be an existing provider of tertiary paediatric neurosciences.

The anticipated contract period is 3 years.

The Commissioner reserves the right to direct award where competition is absent.

This notice is to advise incumbent and prospective providers in the market of the commissioner's intention to commission this service and to provide an opportunity to engage with and participate in a market engagement questionnaire. The outcome of this market engagement will help inform commissioners of the current and future capacity and capability of the market and will be considered with other evidence to inform the commissioning approach,

Applications may be made jointly where partners can demonstrate appropriate expertise and meet the service criteria set out in the questionnaire and service specification: multiple-sclerosis-mgt-for-children-sept-2017.pdf ([england.nhs.uk](https://www.england.nhs.uk))..

The questionnaire is available through the EU Supply portal: <https://uk.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=agcsu>

The reference is 62208 and the closing date for submission of the completed questionnaire will be: 12pm, midday on Tuesday 20th December 2022.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - the Midlands comprising the NHS England Regions: the Midlands; the East of England

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH - East of England
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKF - East Midlands (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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The MS Hub Lead Centres will be geographically spaced across the Regional areas of NHS England as follows:

- i) Lot 1 - North comprising the NHS England Regions: the North East and Yorkshire; the North West,
- ii) Lot 2 - the Midlands comprising the NHS England Regions: the Midlands; the East of England
- iii) Lot 3 - London and the South: comprising the South East; the South West; London

We would like to hear from incumbent and potential paediatric providers who can meet the following essential criteria:

I. Have staff in place with paediatric neuroinflammatory expertise as listed in the service specification :

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/multiple-sclerosis-mgt-for->

[children-sept-2017.pdf](#));

II. Be currently actively managing, as an expert care provider and have seen face to face in the last year, a minimum of 20 children with paediatric Relapsing and Remitting Demyelinating Syndromes (RDS) (including first presentation or first event MS or high risk RDS);

III. Be actively prescribing innovative therapeutic pharmacological MS treatments for these children using the NHS England BluTeq online system;

IV. Have received in a tertiary capacity for expert review, five to ten new paediatric referrals of acute multiple sclerosis/MS-like cases per year in each of the last three years (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. With the requests being for second opinions/advice on the treatment plan.

V. Must be an existing provider of tertiary paediatric neurosciences.

The anticipated contract period is 3 years.

The Commissioner reserves the right to direct award where competition is absent.

This notice is to advise incumbent and prospective providers in the market of the commissioner's intention to commission this service and to provide an opportunity to engage with and participate in a market engagement questionnaire. The outcome of this market engagement will help inform commissioners of the current and future capacity and capability of the market and will be considered with other evidence to inform the commissioning approach,

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The questionnaire is available through the EU Supply portal: <https://uk.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=agcsu>

The reference is 62208 and the closing date for submission of the completed questionnaire will be: 12pm, midday on Tuesday 20th December 2022.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3 - London and the South: comprising the South East; the South West; London

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK - South West (England)
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKI - London

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This exercise is to commission a service that is able to expertly manage the provision of the Multiple Sclerosis Management Service for Children, including patients with suspected Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or equally rare 'MS-like', recurrent acquired demyelinating syndromes (ADS) or who have had a first demyelination episode and have a high risk of relapse which would require a similar treatment approach, including: Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMO, NMOSD) and other AQP4 antibody associated demyelination; Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein (MOG) antibody associated relapsing demyelination and other forms of recurrent relapsing demyelination.

The MS Hub Lead Centres will be geographically spaced across the Regional areas of NHS England as follows:

- i) Lot 1 - North comprising the NHS England Regions: the North East and Yorkshire; the North West,
- ii) Lot 2 - the Midlands comprising the NHS England Regions: the Midlands; the East of England
- iii) Lot 3 - London and the South: comprising the South East; the South West; London

We would like to hear from incumbent and potential paediatric providers who can meet the following essential criteria:

I. Have staff in place with paediatric neuroinflammatory expertise as listed in the service specification :

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/multiple-sclerosis-mgt-for->

[children-sept-2017.pdf](#));

II. Be currently actively managing, as an expert care provider and have seen face to face in the last year, a minimum of 20 children with paediatric Remitting Demyelinating Syndromes (RDS) (including first presentation or first event MS or high risk RDS);

III. Be actively prescribing innovative therapeutic pharmacological MS treatments for these children using the NHS England BluTeq online system;

IV. Have received in a tertiary capacity for expert review, five to ten new paediatric referrals of acute multiple sclerosis/MS-like cases per year in each of the last three years (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. With the requests being for second opinions/advice on the treatment plan.

V. Must be an existing provider of tertiary paediatric neurosciences.

The anticipated contract period is 3 years.

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Applications may be made jointly where partners can demonstrate appropriate expertise and meet the service criteria set out in the questionnaire and service specification: [multiple-sclerosis-mgt-for-children-sept-2017.pdf](#) ([england.nhs.uk](#))..

The questionnaire is available through the EU Supply portal: <https://uk.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=agcsu>

The reference is 62208 and the closing date for submission of the completed questionnaire will be: 12pm, midday on Tuesday 20th December 2022.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 January 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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Patients and their family/carers will have the option to choose which MS Hub Lead Centre they wish to be referred to in discussion with their referring clinician, although it is envisaged that patient flows will be mainly geographic, with patients attending the Hub Lead Centre for their Regional area.

The existing contracts are due to expire on 31st March 2023 and the Commissioner is running this market engagement exercise to ascertain whether there is competition in the market and to help inform future commissioning plans.

Each year in UK, there are likely to be 78 new paediatric patients who need detailed assessment and treatment in the highly specialised service. These are individuals who present with recurrent demyelination and immediately fulfil the criteria for MS or who are at risk of being diagnosed with paediatric MS within the first 12 months after presentation or who have relapsing demyelination/other acquired demyelinating syndromes. The mean age of presentation is 12 years of age. There is understood to be a current caseload of some 230 paediatric patients in England who have been diagnosed with MS, or with an 'MS-like' recurrent acquired demyelinating condition that requires the same treatment.

As well as the caseload of more complex patients, at any point in time, there will be other patients being assessed, most of whom will not remain on the caseload once assessment has been completed and any care planning for local delivery has been completed. This is due to these individuals having a low level of care need or because MS or an 'MS-like' condition has been ruled out.

Incumbent providers are required to respond to this market engagement exercise along with prospective providers.

Contract value and activity levels have been derived based on past experience. The estimated total value of the contracts for all three Lots is £2,550,000 and payment will be either the standard national tariffs or existing local tariffs as is currently the case. There is anticipated to be no net change in the number of patients accessing care in the NHS or the related cost.

NHS England highly specialised commissioning is the contracting and commissioning authority for this service and wishes to commission centres across three Lots in England (North, Midlands and London and the South) to be delivered as part of a network arrangement as detailed in the questionnaire.