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Contract

Contract Extension relating to the Fast-Track Mental Health Social Work Graduate Programme

Department of Health and Social Care

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-033970

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-041a87

Published 16 November 2023, 3:26pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Contact

Helen Kelly

Email

Helen.Kelly@dhsc.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Contract Extension relating to the Fast-Track Mental Health Social Work Graduate Programme

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

Main site or place of performance

London

II.2.4) Description of the procurement at the time of conclusion of the contract:

The Authority placed a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union under the following reference TED71/2019-042016 on 02/09/2019 seeking tenders from providers of Fast-Track Mental Health Social Work Graduate Programmes interested in entering into an arrangement for the supply of such services to the Authority. the provision of a fast-track programme is to select and train high-calibre and ambitious graduates with leadership potential in the field of adult mental health social work.

Following a review in July 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is extending the term of the Contract to include two additional cohorts for the fast-track mental health social work graduate programme with additional key performance indicators, service credits provisions and other consequential amendments relating to the extension. This extension is under eg.72(1)(a): Clear precise and unequivocal review clauses.

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

1 July 2020

End date

31 March 2025

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.2) Administrative information**IV.2.1) Contract award notice concerning this contract**

Notice number: [2019/S 171-417899](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

599

Title

Fast-Track Mental Health Social Work Graduate Programme

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

1 July 2020

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

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

The Think Ahead Organisation, Think Ahead

Unit 318, Record Hall, 16-16a Baldwins Gardens

London

EC1N 7RJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI32 - Westminster

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £27,146,904

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

The High Court

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/courts-and-tribunals/high-court/>

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 800000000 - Education and training services

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

London

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is extending the term of the Contract to include two additional cohorts for the fast-track mental health social work graduate programme with additional key performance indicators, service credits provisions and other consequential amendments relating to the extension.

Since 2016 DHSC has funded a mental health social work fast-track graduate programme (MHSW-GP). Think Ahead (TA) is our current delivery partner. The two-year scheme combines extensive on-the-job experience with classroom teaching, with participants qualifying as social workers, attaining a postgraduate diploma in Social Work, and completing their assessed and supported year in employment (ASYE).

From 2016-2022 Think Ahead was grant funded . The positive impact of the programme led to DHSC conducting a procurement exercise to move from grant funding to a more cost-effective longer-term contract which was approved by Ministers and signed in July 2020. The contract currently forms part of DHSC baseline spend and is within budget. For a cohort of 160 participants, this equates to £9.1M and the overall cost for 3 cohorts is £27.2M which will run until 2025. Think Ahead contract is a 2+1 and was recently extended last year for a final 3rd cohort which starts in 2023 and ends in 2025.

This is the last cohort in the current contract, to initiate the process of extending TA for a further two cohorts starting in 2024 and 2025. The contract would end in 2027.

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

10 October 2023

End date

31 August 2027

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£46,141,134

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

The Think Ahead Organisation, Think Ahead

Unit 318, Record Hall, 16-16a Baldwins Gardens

London

EC1N 7RJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI32 - Westminster

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

In July 2023, the Authority agreed to amend this Contract to allow for an additional 2

Cohorts for the Fast-Track Mental Health Social Work Graduate Programme and to amend the payment terms in light of recommendations received from the Authority's Commercial Assurance Board. Following a review in July 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is extending the term of the Contract to include two additional cohorts for the fast-track mental health social work graduate programme with additional key performance indicators, service credits provisions and other consequential amendments relating to the extension.

The total value of this contract extension is £18,994,230.00

The Authority believes this extension is under eg.72(1)(a): Clear precise and unequivocal review clauses.

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for modification brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority/entity could not foresee.

Description of the circumstances which rendered the modification necessary and explanation of the unforeseen nature of these circumstances:

The Authority believes this extension is compliant under eg.72(1)(a): Clear precise and unequivocal review clauses.

Following a review in July 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is extending the term of the Contract to include two additional cohorts for the fast-track mental health social work graduate programme with additional key performance indicators, service credits provisions and other consequential amendments relating to the extension.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £27,146,904

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £46,141,134