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Award

## **GP direct access non-obstetric ultrasound service (NOUS)**

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-038011

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-042a16

Published 29 December 2023, 1:38pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Charter House, Parkway

Welwyn Garden City

AL8 6JL

#### **Email**

[maninder.dulku@attain.co.uk](mailto:maninder.dulku@attain.co.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKH23 - Hertfordshire

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk>

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Health

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### **Section II: Object**

#### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

##### **II.1.1) Title**

GP direct access non-obstetric ultrasound service (NOUS)

Reference number

ACE-0734-2023-HWE

##### **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 (VEAT) and is intended to provide notice of the intention of the Authority to award a contract for a GP direct access non-obstetric ultrasound service (NOUS) to its incumbent Physiological Measurements Limited (PML).

The proposed new contract is intended to start on 1st April 2024 and end on 31st March 2025. The expected value of this contract is £1,800,000. The value expressed in this notice is the expected value of the 1-year period. Please note that these are expected values and may be amended post contract finalisation with the provider.

Physiological Measurements Limited (PML) has been providing this service since 1st April 2019 and is due to expire on 31st March 2024. The total cumulative value of the contract

since it started from 2019 – 2024 is £7,857,753, forecast to 31st March 2024. (excluding VAT and excluding the value of this new contract).

#### **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: £1,800,000

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

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The Five Year Forward View set out an ambition to deliver more healthcare out of acute hospitals and closer to home, with the aim of providing better care for patients, reducing the number of unplanned bed days in hospital, and reducing net costs. To achieve this objective, the organisation previously known as NHS Herts Valleys CCG (HVCCG) commissioned a range of community services from the independent sector and NHS providers.

In January 2019 Physiological Measurements Limited (PML) was awarded a 3-year contract (with the option to extend for another 2 years) to provide the GP direct access non-obstetric ultrasound service (NOUS) following an open market procurement process

across south and west Hertfordshire.

The service went live on 1st April 2019 being delivered across south and west Hertfordshire with one clinic location in each locality.

This service provides community access to clinic locations in each locality across south and west Hertfordshire, mainly delivered in local GP practices. Referrals are managed by way of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

The current contract for this service is currently due to end on 31 March 2024.

Following an options appraisal carried out by the ICB, the ICB Board concluded that the current PML NOUS service contract would expire on 31 March 2024 and that NOUS activity would be repatriated to local Trusts as part of the future expansion of Community Diagnostic Centre (CDCs). However, an additional capital cost of over £1m has been identified for the transfer of ultrasound activity to local Trusts from April 2024 onwards that has not been accounted for and therefore this option is not viable at the present time. The 12-month extension will allow time to manage NOUS activity in the medium term until Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) are fully operational in HWE.

#### **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**

In line with best practice, the Authority will observe a voluntary 10-day standstill period prior to concluding the proposed contract with Physiological Measurements Limited (PML).

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (HWE ICB) was incorporated on 1st July 2022 and includes the three previous clinical commissioning groups. Since the HWE ICB was incorporated, we have been working to review services across each 'place' to ensure that there is equity of access for our patients across the broader ICB area.

Following an options appraisal carried out by the ICB, the ICB Board concluded that the current PML NOUS service contract would expire on 31 March 2024 and that NOUS activity would be repatriated to local Trusts as part of the future expansion of Community Diagnostic Centre (CDCs). However, an additional capital cost of over £1m has been identified for the transfer of ultrasound activity to local Trusts from April 2024 onwards that has not been accounted for and therefore this option is not viable at the present time. The 12-month extension will allow time to manage NOUS activity in the medium term until Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) are fully operational in HWE.

#### IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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## Section V. Award of contract/concession

### Title

GP direct access non-obstetric ultrasound service (NOUS)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### V.2) Award of contract/concession

#### V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

29 December 2023

**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**

Physiological Measurements Limited (PML)

The Old Malt House, Willow Street

Oswestry, Shropshire

SY11 1AJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG22 - Shropshire CC

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: £1,800,000

**V.2.5) Information about subcontracting**

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court of Justice England and Wales

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Charter House, Parkway

Welwyn Garden City

AL8 6JL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk>