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Award

Provision of Ophthalmology Services

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-038031

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-042a24

Published 29 December 2023, 4:07pm

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

sarah.beaumont@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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of Ophthalmology Services

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 and as such provides notification of the intention of the Authority to enter into a contract for Ophthalmology Services with its incumbent provider, Community Health and Eyecare Limited.

The new contract is intended to start on 1st April 2024 and will be for a period of 1-year,

ending on 31st March 2025.

This contract was originally awarded via a competitive procurement process for a period of 3-years with the option to extend for a further 2-years, and is now due to expire on 31st March 2024. The total cumulative value of this contract to end March 24 will be £13,552,663 (excl. VAT). Please note that these are expected values and may be amended post contract finalisation with the provider.

The value of the new contract will be £2,940,568 (excluding VAT).

This additional 12 months will be used to allow the Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board to redesign the Ophthalmology Service model to understand how services can best meet the needs of patients into the future. Within that time, a decision will also be made on the most appropriate route to market.

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: £2,940,568

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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Currently, the community ophthalmology service in South and West Hertfordshire (S&W Herts) is commissioned to provide a community consultant led service to diagnose and treat a range of Ophthalmology conditions, and manage relevant follow-up activity within the service, before final discharge back to the care of the patient's own GP, or onward referral to secondary care where necessary. The service is available to patients aged 16 years and above registered with a S&W Herts general practice or living in South and West Hertfordshire.

The service manages the following conditions:

- Suspected and actual ocular hypertension and glaucoma
- Dry eyes, Blepharitis
- In growing eyelashes
- Lid lesions excluding Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) and Cancers
- Posterior vitreous detachment, floaters and flashers
- Dry Age-Related macular degeneration (AMD) pigmented retinal abnormalities.
- Pre-assessment of cataracts
- Post cataract assessment
- Dry macular degeneration
- Wet AMD - Injection clinic - for first and follow up injections to be carried out in the community service, for new patients only.

The service will also deliver minor surgical procedures that are suitable to be delivered in a community setting, with prior approval in the case of low priority treatment procedures, including:

- Insertion of punctual plugs, punctual enlargement.
- Snip procedure
- Lacrimal syringing
- Chalazion* (Policy currently being developed)
- Removal of any other lumps and bumps – warts, cysts, skin tags* (Covered in Cosmetic surgery policy)
- Eye lash removal (ingrowing)
- Entropion repair
- Ectropion repair
- Referral for Cataract surgery*

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 finalising a new contract with Community Health and Eyecare Limited.

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:

In July 2022, the CCGs across Hertfordshire and West Essex came together to form a new organisation - NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board. This has impacted on the system 'places' within HWE ICB as it has taken time to reach agreement in relation to the relevant operating models. Whilst these have been developed, procuring these services would not be an option as this would risk putting in place services which do not meet the needs of our patient populations.

The ICB will utilise this additional contractual period to provide continuity of care for our patient population whilst we redesign the Ophthalmology service model. The new model is likely to include other services which are not currently provided for within the existing scope of services.

Once the model has been designed, the Authority will decide on the most appropriate route to market for the services.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Title

Provision of Ophthalmology Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

8 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

Community Health and Eyecare Limited

6 Fulwood Park, Caxton Road

Preston

PR2 9NZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD45 - Mid Lancashire

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £2,940,568

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

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

NHS 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>