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Award

Affinity Vanguard Programme

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-038046

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-042a30

Published 29 December 2023, 6:28pm

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

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

Affinity Vanguard Programme

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 the Affinity Vanguard Programme to its incumbent HCRG.

The proposed new contract is intended to start on 1st April 2024 and end on 31st March 2028. The expected value of this contract is £2,291,940. The value expressed in this notice is the expected value of the 4-year period. Please note that these are expected values and may be amended post contract finalisation with the provider.

HCRG has been providing this service since September 2021 and is due to expire on 31st March 2024. The total cumulative value of the contract since it started from 2021 to 2024

is £1,730,865, 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: £2,291,940

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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Following the success of the Power project across Southend Essex and Thurrock, (SET), West Essex CCG was approached by NHSE/I and invited to submit an EOI to be a Vanguard for applying the Framework for Integrated Care across SET in December 2021, with an award made in August 2021. This provides an opportunity for health, education, social care and health and justice partners to work together to co-design a model across Southend Essex and Thurrock.

There is a cohort of vulnerable children and young people between the ages of 0-18 with complex needs who experience some of the highest levels of health inequality. Their needs are defined as 'complex', as they often are multiple, persistent, severe and framed

by family and social contexts i.e. prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Framework is designed using evidence-informed best practice to integrate and support services in order to intervene earlier in the pathway and stop children and young people's progression into the justice and secure estate, or an unnecessary Tier 4 hospital admission, or other inappropriate out of area placement; providing better outcomes for all.

The Affinity proposal was created in conjunction with partners across the system; the criteria was to invest in additional support for the most vulnerable children and young people who have complex needs and can be described as presenting with high risk, high harm behaviours and high vulnerability. The offer aims to build trauma-informed care and formulation-driven, evidence based whole system approach to providing integrated support and creating change for the most vulnerable.

The key objective for this Vanguard is to improve CYP wellbeing, displaying direct improvement in their mental health, and emotional regulation; especially to flourish in education and learning. Our vision is to ensure that children and young people are enabled to lead an improved purpose in life including education; that they are supported by staff to re-enter/remain in mainstream education where appropriate, and to enjoy and achieve through positive learning experiences. This will also enable them to further improve educational attendance and engagement as well as preventing sanctions, planned isolations and school exclusions.

The Vanguard draws upon the learning of the POWER programme, the schools wellbeing teams in Southend and Thurrock and the development work by our MH provider. This programme has now been in operation since September 2021 and is performing very well. The contract was awarded to HCRG. NHSE Health and Justice (H&J) has confirmed that funding for the current financial year 2023/24, is £572,985. NHSE H&J has also confirmed that this funding is now in place until 31st March 2028, and will be granted to HWE ICB for a continuation of this programme of works. This funding will be until 31 March 2028 and is ring fenced funding and can be used only for this service.

The service will be delivered by HCRG, they currently deliver the Children's Pre-Birth – 19 service across Essex. This means that they are already embedded within the Essex system and have the existing relationships required to make a success of the Vanguard from the start; they are also in a position to continue this programme of works. Embarking on a procurement process would therefore not be feasible in this instance.

The partnership with schools within the existing commissioned services is crucial to the Vanguard's success; the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service is able to offer this solution to ensure the fit with existing service provision, access to schools, and the offer of a family centric and holistic model. This means that HCRG is best placed to continue to deliver this service.

This also enables the ICB to utilise management structures, premises costs and recruitment processes as an 'in kind' element for the service. The service will require 100% of the 572k going forwards to balance the staffing structures to continue the outcomes required for this vanguard service.

The programme has provided innovative solutions to drive the vanguard forwards with a reduction on the use of clinical models and clinical staffing, which has significantly limited the caseload and activity and risk narrowing the interventions to what would essentially be psychological systemic family therapy.

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 HCRG.

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:

Following the success of the Power project across Southend Essex and Thurrock, (SET), West Essex CCG was approached by NHSE/I and invited to submit an EOI to be a Vanguard for applying the Framework for Integrated Care across SET in December 2021, with an award made in August 2021. This provides an opportunity for health, education, social care and health and justice partners to work together to co-design a model across Southend Essex and Thurrock.

There is a cohort of vulnerable children and young people between the ages of 0-18 with complex needs who experience some of the highest levels of health inequality. Their needs are defined as 'complex', as they often are multiple, persistent, severe and framed by family and social contexts i.e. prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences

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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

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

HCRG

The Heath Business and Technical Park

Runcorn, Cheshire

WA7 4QX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD62 - Cheshire East

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: £2,291,940

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

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>