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Contract

North East Essex GP Support Service

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-038434

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04a6c6

Published 28 November 2024, 12:17pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB

Aspen House, Stephenson Road

COLCHESTER

CO49QR

Contact

Jane Garnett

Email

jane.garnett@snee.nhs.uk

Telephone

+44 1473770000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

NHS Organisation Data Service

QJG

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://suffolkandnortheastessex.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

North East Essex GP Support Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79500000 - Office-support services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is an Award notice to outline NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board's ("the ICB") award of a contract for the provision of a GP Support Service to

General Practice across North East Essex.

This service will be for north east Essex based GP practices, who face a range of significant challenges in the day to day delivery of primary medical care. This service will reactively support invited practices, via quality improvement methodologies, to build their capability and resilience. Support is also available to practices wishing to proactively achieve quality improvement. There will be a focus on collaborative working with other local support providers, to achieve a co-ordinated approach that optimises resources.

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: £800,560

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

Main site or place of performance

Based within North East Essex - Tendring and Colchester district areas

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Nationally and locally, primary medical care is seeing growth in the challenges faced by GP Practice teams to respond to growing patient populations, growing older populations, and increasing demand for services to meet population health needs, whilst mitigating the impact of infrastructure constraints (like those of workforce and estates). This can pose challenge to the effective delivery of quality and safe primary medical care services.

The national Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to General Practice alongside the SNEE Primary Care Strategy, provide a strategic vision and accompanying delivery plan to improve patient access to primary medical care, address the gap between demand and capacity, and increase workforce well-being, via various initiatives.

Included in the Delivery plan is a requirement for ICBs to provide support offers to GP practices who are facing challenges in operationally delivering a sustainable and safe level of primary medical care services. To this end, the NE Essex GP Support Service is

being retained to deliver bespoke support offers to General Practice, spanning both reactive and proactive approaches to respond to realised and emerging challenges.

A NE Essex Quality, Sustainability and Innovation (QSI) Group of local stakeholders, through an MDT style approach will oversee delivery of support services to GP Practices and support a co-ordinated approach between the current providers.

Identified practices will be referred to the contract holder for full assessment, followed by development of a bespoke, co-produced support/improvement plan. The provider will work in partnership with other support providers such as the ICB's training hub to provide a co-ordinated support approach, to optimise resources and patient outcomes. This service will provide operational, rather than clinical support, and will be expected to signpost to other complementary services as appropriate.

In addition to action planning, the service will provide subject matter expertise in the local primary medical care environment, introduction to quality improvement methodologies, supporting timely, face to face analysis and problem-solving support, providing advice and guidance on best practice, operational techniques, access to tools and resources and the sharing of insights and lessons. The support will be hands-off, in a trusted, confidential environment, encouraging independence and sustainability, once the support is withdrawn.

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice and is intended to provide notice of the ICB's intention to award a 2-year contract (from 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2027), with a potential extension of 2 additional years.

The maximum contract value is £800,560 (exc. VAT) and this will be subject to inflationary rises in line with NHS Guidance.

Following an extended pilot period, tested in response to identified needs within Primary medical Care, the ICB is seeking to establish this service for a longer period.

The pilot undertaken within Primary medical Care, has undergone a full evaluation at the end of the pilot period, reviewing outcomes against need, to determine future commissioning requirements. The initial outcome of the evaluation identified the need to secure ongoing provision of this service in response to General Practice needs.

GPPC, who have delivered the service during the extended pilot period, are an embedded organisation within the North East Essex Alliance, with established working relationships, interdependencies and links with Primary medical Care, as well as knowledge obtained about the needs within the practices and an understanding of the local demographics, which supports improvement plan development. GPPC is also locally based and is able to respond to referrals, with the preferred face to face support, within hours when urgent cases present. This places them in a unique position to deliver this service in a way that

will support the ongoing realisation of the maximum benefits possible.

The ICB will award the contract utilising the NHS terms and conditions of goods and non-clinical services.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

2 years with a potential extension of 2 years

II.2.14) Additional information

Contract review provision:

Please note that the services and associated specification and prices commissioned within this contract may be subject to review and change, any changes will be through a variation to the contract in accordance with Regulation 72 (1) (a) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Additionally, the contract may also be amended in terms of the original services supplied, where, following assessment it is identified that it is logical for additional services to be delivered in conjunction with this contract and by the provider, both in terms of actual service delivery and to avoid duplication of costs.

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 services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The incumbent provider (GP Primary Choice Ltd) has successfully delivered this service for the past 2 years and has the knowledge, expertise, experience and interdependencies from close working partnerships with General Practice partners that has taken time to develop.

This service retains in depth knowledge of the Practices it serves and embedded and trusted relationships with multiple partners, particularly in General Practice teams such as Practice Managers and Practice partners. Introducing a new provider would risk turbulence and disrupting vital links, which would impact the effectiveness of the support offer, putting general practice recovery and quality patient access and care at risk of untimely recovery.

Relationship and trust building has been a key requirement of this service throughout the course of the extended pilot. GPPC has worked to develop relationships which support and enable access to key Practice information that assists in the identification and delivery of key quality improvement opportunities within Practices for the benefit of both the Practice and the population. It is believed that introducing a different organisation with different branding, to deliver this service would significantly impact the ability to quickly and effectively engage with General Practice, due to the need to establish trust with individuals.

The service has experienced and trained staff in place that have worked locally within General Practice and developed that trust with General Practice teams which can flex to the individual needs of the Practices to provide face to face bespoke improvement support throughout the referral packages.

The ICB deems that changing providers at a time where General Practice is under increasing pressure and facing ever increasing challenges, would have an adverse impact on achievable outcomes for both the practices being supported and for their populations. The ICB is therefore seeking to re-commission the current provider to continue its service delivery to provide stability in a fragile environment.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-032267](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Title

North East Essex GP Support Service

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

27 November 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

GP Primary Choice (GPPC)

Unit 27 Colchester Business Centre, 1 George Williams Way

Colchester

CO1 2JS

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

Companies House

14700240

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £800,560

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of Justice of England and Wales

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom