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Award

## Crisis Cafe

CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-039646

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055ea2 ([view related notices](#))

Published 14 July 2025, 2:03pm

## Scope

## Description

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) intention to award notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to this award. The standstill period begins on the day after the publication of this notice. Representations by providers must be made to decision makers by 25th July 2025 to [cwp.contracts@nhs.net](mailto:cwp.contracts@nhs.net). This contract has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award under the PSR.'

The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) championed the development of crisis cafes to offer an alternative approach in relation to supporting a self-defined mental health crisis that is not necessarily clinically assessed or defined. Through the provision of additional funding through the Long-Term Plan and capital investment available through 'Beyond Places of Safety' initiative the Trust alongside partners were able to develop Crisis cafes across the CWP footprint.

The East Crisis Cafes are established within the East locality. They are a familiar resource for communities to access and are meeting the requirements of the contract in terms of agreed performance within the financial envelope.

The Trust recommendation is that the contract with the provider is extended as all

outcomes and contractual obligations are currently being met and achieved. The provider has established and is maintaining positive relationships with stakeholders and other providers of mental health care. This includes the Trust First Response teams such as Home Treatment Team, and Crisis Line who regularly refer patients to the service.

The service is open 7 days a week from 1pm to 10pm and provides a safe, welcoming and comfortable space away from a clinical environment for people in crisis, and those seeking to prevent the onset of a crisis. The team provide emotional support, practical advice, devise safety plans and offer signposting to patients.

The cafe is viewed by professionals and public as a core part of the health and care service offer. A break in this service offer would be detrimental to the hundreds of patients who use this service every month. It is recommended this contract is extended until the competitive process is actioned by the end of this year. In parallel a competitive procurement exercise will begin.

**Quality & Innovation:** The cafe emphasises a person-centered approach, so care is tailored to the individual's specific needs and preferences. This approach ensures that the service provided is of high quality, and responsive to the person's unique circumstances. The Cafe offers a holistic model of care that addresses not just the immediate mental health crisis, but also other factors that may be contributing to the individual's distress, such as housing instability, financial stress, or relationship issues. By offering integrated support, the service goes beyond traditional mental health services, providing a more comprehensive and innovative approach to care.

**Value:** The café offers value to both individuals in crisis and the broader mental health care system. The service enhances core mental health services, promote community wellbeing, and help to alleviate pressure on overburdened healthcare systems. The provider has supported xx number of clients over the last financial year and has received many compliments from service users and other health professionals. Examples of value that the service offers includes:

- Improving access to timely support (no waiting lists to access, providing a safe space.
- Cost effectiveness: saves costs by reducing admissions, more cost-effective model vs traditional hospital based care pathways
- Supports the prevention agenda

**Integration, collaboration and service sustainability:** The Café promotes collaboration between different services, such as healthcare providers, local authorities, other community organisations, and emergency services. This is essential for a coordinated, effective response to mental health crises. The provider has been effective at developing these cross-partnership relationships to enable the service to become an integrated

offer as part of the CWP first response services.

Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice:

The Crisis Cafe offers extended hours (up to 10pm) including weekends, when traditional 'in person' mental health services are often closed. This increases accessibility during times of day when people may feel most vulnerable. The service provides a genuine alternative to emergency departments (EDs), thus reducing the pressure on hospitals and emergency services, but enabling some of our most vulnerable people to be supported.

The café is informal, welcoming, and non-clinical which helps to reduce the stigma often associated with seeking mental health support. This is appealing to people who feel uncomfortable or intimidated by traditional mental health settings. The café provides person-centered care, focusing on the individual's needs and preferences. Trained staff work with clients to identify their immediate needs, whether that's someone to talk to, support with practical needs, or signposting to other services. The timely support can prevent crises from escalating and reduce the need for more intensive interventions like hospital admissions or psychiatric evaluations. Over time, this can lead to improved mental health outcomes for individuals.

Unlike traditional, formal mental health services, crisis cafes provide a non-clinical, informal environment where individuals are not pressured into a structured treatment plan. People can choose how they wish to engage with the service, what they engage with e.g. peer support/mindfulness thus facilitating choice.

Social Value: Staff who deliver this service - live and work locally within the region. The service encourages people to get involved and share their experience to help others through a model of volunteers and peer support.

There is not a high turnover of staff.

01/04/25 to 30/09/25 £144,144

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## Contract 1

## **Supplier**

- Independence Support Ltd

## **Contract value**

- £144,144 excluding VAT
- £144,144 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

## **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

25 July 2025

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 25 July 2025 to 30 September 2025
- 2 months, 7 days

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 85100000 - Health services
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## Participation

### Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

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## Supplier

### Independence Support Ltd

Windsor House, Bayshill Road,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England,  
GL50 3AT  
United Kingdom

Email: [info@isl-uk.org](mailto:info@isl-uk.org)

Website: <https://www.isl-org.uk/>

Region: UKK13 - Gloucestershire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

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## Contracting authority

### **CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RXA
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGZV-5874-HRZD

Countess of Chester, Health Park, Liverpool Road

Chester

CH2 1BQ

United Kingdom

Email: [cwp.contracts@nhs.net](mailto:cwp.contracts@nhs.net)

Website: <https://www.cwp.nhs.uk/>

Region: UKD63 - Cheshire West and Chester

Organisation type: Public authority - central government