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Contract

## **Notice of Intention to make an award under the Most Suitable Provider (MSP) process -Local Stop Smoking Service & Support Grant (LSSSSG) Smoking Cessation Service**

Liverpool City Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-040666

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-052392

Published 16 July 2025, 6:06pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

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

Liverpool City Council

Cunard Building

Liverpool

L31DS

#### **Contact**

Marlon Roy

#### **Email**

[marlon.roy@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:marlon.roy@liverpool.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKD72 - Liverpool

**Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk>

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

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

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

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

Notice of Intention to make an award under the Most Suitable Provider (MSP) process -Local Stop Smoking Service & Support Grant (LSSSSG) Smoking Cessation Service

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85100000 - Health services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Notice of Intention to make an award. 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 contract.

This is a Notice of Intention to make an award and is being published in line with Regulation 12 - under The

Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime - PSR) Regulations 2023. The Most Suitable Provider Process was used to commission this service and award contract.

This will be published for 8 calendar days as per the requirements of the Provider Selection Regime 2023 - ending midnight 28th July 2025

The contract is for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 8 months commencing on 01 August 2025 at a contract value of £1,450,821 excluding VAT for the initial 3 year term plus option to extend for 8 months at a value of £322,400

This a new service, with an existing provider.

#### **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: £1,773,221

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKD72 - Liverpool

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

Liverpool City Council was seeking a provider via the Most Suitable Provider process under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 to enhance current

stop smoking and support provision.

Description of Service and Initiative:

The Office of Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) has allocated funding through the Local Stop Smoking Services & Support Grant (LSSSSG) to local authorities in England for

stop smoking services and support over a 5 year period. The grant supports the government's commitment to create a smoke-free generation and is specifically to enhance smoking cessation support in Liverpool and to increase the number of smokers setting a date to quit smoking.

The purpose of the LSSSSG is to deliver the government ambitions regarding a smokefree generation through supporting existing smokers to quit. The investment is to increase access

to evidence-based behavioural support to quit and to provide targeted support to people more likely to smoke, to reduce health inequalities. The funding comes with increased ambitions for the numbers of people quitting smoking set by OHID. This additional investment should not replace activity delivered as part of the core public health grant or NHS Long Term Plan. It is intended to be used by local authorities to deliver more or enhanced stop smoking support provision. The funding can support building

capacity to support smokers to quit and increase referrals. from a range of settings, such as primary care or mental health services. The funding cannot be used for tobacco enforcement

activity. Liverpool City Council is now intending to award a contract to the most suitable provider (following the aforementioned Most Suitable Process) to deliver a service which achieves these objectives.

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#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

3 years with the option to extend for a further 8 months commencing on (or soon after) 01 August 2025

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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:

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 publication of this notice marks the start of the standstill period. Representations by providers must be made to decision makers by midnight 28th July. This contract has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award under the PSR

#### 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: [2025/S 000-026661](#)

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## Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### V.2) Award of contract

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

16 July 2025

#### V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

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

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor**

City Health Care Partnership CIC

5 Beacon Way, Hull, HU3 4AE, United Kingdom

Hull

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKE12 - East Riding of Yorkshire

Companies House

6273905

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,773,221

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,773,221

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

'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 publication of this notice marks the start of the standstill period. Representations by providers must be made to the relevant authority by Midnight 28th July (8 working days following publication of intention to award notice). This contract

has not yet formally been awarded; this notice serves as an intention to award under the PSR.'

Written representations should be sent to [commercialprocurement@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:commercialprocurement@liverpool.gov.uk) for the attention of the Head of Procurement and Contracts or by post or by post to Head of Procurement and Contracts, Commercial Procurement Unit, Liverpool City Council, Cunard

Building, Water Street, Liverpool L3 1AH. (It is advised to use a signed for delivery service)

Award decision maker is Director of Public Health Matthew Ashton

There were no declared conflict or potential conflicts of interest in making this decision

The importance of the key criteria was established by reviewing the objectives and desired outcomes from the contract against the description of the key criteria as set out in Annex D of the Provider Selection Regime Statutory Guidance as published by NHS England.

It was considered that Integration, collaboration, and service sustainability was the most important criteria as there is an existing service in place for delivery of a Stop Smoking and Nicotine Free Community support. The grant conditions specifically require the funding to be used to enhance commissioned stop smoking services and support, in addition to, and while maintaining, existing spend on these services and support from the public health grant. Given the current Stop Smoking & Nicotine Free Community Service will remain in place, there is therefore a need to fully integrate the new service into existing systems and provision to ensure processes and pathways are complementary and avoid duplication. Without seamless integration with current provision it was felt that the key 'Quit Date Set' target set by the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) would be too onerous to meet. Failure to meet the target could put future funding at risk, as OHID have indicated performance against the 'Quit Date Set' target will be a factor in decision-making related to future year LSSSSG grant allocations .

Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice was the second most important criteria as a key objective within the service specification is to reduce smoking-related health inequalities within the city by targeting communities where smoking prevalence remains high. Smoking is a major cause of health inequalities in Liverpool. Smoking attributable mortality rates are 2.1 times higher in the most deprived local authorities than in the least deprived. It accounts for over half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in Liverpool. In Liverpool adults in routine and manual occupations are 2.7 times more likely to be smokers



compared to those in other occupations.

Value was ranked third most important criteria to support the grant objectives of enhancing and building capacity as maximising efficiencies will be vital. The targets set by OHID for Liverpool are challenging, it was therefore felt due consideration of each organisation needed to be given, to ensure good value in terms of costs, overall benefits, and financial implications that would maximise the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes in enabling smokers to quit.

Quality and Innovation was ranked fourth most important criteria so as to ensure all bidders met the national standards for provision of a quality stop smoking service, as set out in NICE Clinical guideline 209 "Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence". This criteria was ranked 4th because a Pass / Fail question had been included within the Technical and Professional Ability section of the Basic Selection Criteria to ensure organisations had the ability to achieve a minimum threshold of quality. Furthermore, because all stop smoking services in England are required to work to the same set of NG209 guidelines, there was built in assurance that organisations who had 'passed' the Basic Selection Criteria would have the appropriate quality measures to deliver this criterion.

Social Value was ranked fifth most important criteria as Liverpool City Council is actively integrating social value into its commissioned services aiming to maximize economic, social, and environmental benefits for the city and its residents.

CHCP CIC was deemed to be the Most Suitable Provider due to having the most assessed strengths against criteria 1- 3 when compared to the other submissions. Further detail against each criteria is provided below.

Criteria 1: Integration, collaboration and service sustainability (Rank 1) - CHCP's submission set out how they are already fully integrated with key stakeholders and vulnerable groups across the city and have established effective pathways that are already embedded and operational. Whilst other organisations submissions acknowledged the complexity of integrating services the solutions put forward for integration suggested significant duplication with current arrangements, with the potential to cause confusion, destabilise the system, and impact on achieving local stop smoking targets.

Criteria 2: Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice (Rank 2) - All organisations held a clear vision as to how they would address health inequalities, however CHCP has already demonstrated impact in support of reducing local health inequalities through increasing quit dates set among local groups with the highest smoking prevalence rates. Solutions put forward by other organisations were either not considered viable in Liverpool or would require some significant changes to the current system.

Criteria 3: Value (Rank 3) - CHCP were significantly stronger than the other organisations on perceived value. In already having pathways and a database in position, plus a fully staffed team already aligned in its skill mix to its proposed model of delivery, the CHCP submission clearly set out how it will provide immediate value for money. Whilst other organisations submissions acknowledged the need to provide value for money the solutions put forward suggested significant duplication with current management arrangements and therefore associated costs. For organisations other than CHCP a risk was also identified related to the full achievement of service KPIs due to the potential need for TUPE and service mobilisation. The submissions did not clearly outline how such costs would be offset in a beneficial way to Liverpool Public Health as commissioners of the service. Criteria 4: Quality & Innovation (Rank 4) - All the submissions clearly set out how they would provide high quality and innovative local stop smoking services in line with national quality standards.

Criteria 5: Social Value (Rank 5) - All the submissions clearly set out how they would provide social value in Liverpool.

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

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

Independent Patient Choice and Procurement Panel

London

Email

[england.procurementpanelinfo@nhs.net](mailto:england.procurementpanelinfo@nhs.net)

Country

United Kingdom

### **VI.4.3) Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Now that the Council has concluded their MSP assessment, it will now enter into a standstill process in line with Regulation 10(7) and 12 (respectively) of The Health Regulations 2023 and observe an 8 working day standstill period, before awarding any contract. Providers will have until midnight July 28th 2025 to make representations.