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Award

Provision of an Independent Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-040902

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04c96b

Published 19 December 2024, 9:54am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Ethelbert Road

Canterbury

CT1 3NG

Contact

Senior Category Manager - Corporate (C326841)

Email

ekh-tr.procurement@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ44 - East Kent

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.ekhufth.nhs.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://www.ekhufth.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 an Independent Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service

Reference number

C326841

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79414000 - Human resources management consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

2gether Support Solutions is looking to award a three year contract on behalf of the Contracting Authority for the provision of a tailored, including direct contact with staff, Independent and Confidential Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service.

It is 2gether Support Solutions consideration that The Guardian Service Ltd. is the most suitable, and sole, provider of these services within the United Kingdom.

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: £617,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79633000 - Staff development services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ44 - East Kent

Main site or place of performance

Contracting Authority's hospital sites across East Kent.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

2gether Support Solutions is looking to award a three year contract on behalf of the Contracting Authority for the provision of a tailored, including direct contact with staff, Independent and Confidential Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service.

It is 2gether Support Solutions consideration that The Guardian Service Ltd. is the most suitable, and sole, provider of these services within the United Kingdom.

The service is to provide information and emotional support in a strictly confidential and non-

judgemental manner. The one-to-one nature of the service is a fundamental foundation of the service, providing personal contact in contrast to an online, email or drop box approach. The service is focused on the individual, helping them to articulate their concern and decide what action they wish to take. The service does not offer advice, legal or otherwise. The purpose is to help the individual articulate their concerns, understand what options exist in resolving their concern and helping them reach their own decision as what to do. The service does not make recommendations but offers support as an independent facilitator principle where two parties to a concern wish to meet and where the reporting staff member seeks this support. This is not a mediation service, but an independent facilitation of the meeting. With the agreement of the staff member, the service provider should escalate the issue in line with agreed parameters, bringing the issue to the attention of the appropriate Executive or management team member.

If you think that your organisation is competent, suitably experienced and appropriately qualified to deliver such a service, then you may approach 2gether Support Solutions and express your interest in being considered. You must submit information against a questionnaire (containing both basic selection and key criteria) against project reference C326841_Provision of an Independent Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service within the e-Tendering portal.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

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

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:

It is 2gether Support Solutions consideration that The Guardian Service Ltd. is the most suitable, and sole, provider of these services within the United Kingdom.

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

18 December 2024

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

The Guardian Service Ltd.

14 Grays Inn Rd

London

WC1X 8HN

Email

contact@theguardianservice.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

09030131

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £617,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £617,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

2gether Support Solutions is issuing this F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice in accordance with Regulation 99 of The Public Contract Regulations 2015 to inform the market of the Contracting Authority's intention to enter into a contract with The Guardian Service Ltd. for the provision of these services.

This notice will be published for at least 10 days.

If you think that your organisation is competent, suitably experienced and appropriately qualified to deliver such a service, then you may approach 2gether Support Solutions and express your interest in being considered. To register on the Health Family Single eCommercial System e-tendering portal:

If you have not accessed the portal before you will need to click Register from the landing page and complete the required form.

- 1) Register on the portal webpage <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>. Please note that registration and use of the website is free of charge.
- 2) Once registered, to search for tendering opportunities that have been published, click 'Find Opportunities'; and
- 3) From the Find Opportunities page, click on the title of an opportunity. If the tendering project is at the stage where it is open for suppliers to express interest, you will be able to click 'Register Interest'.

For technical support in submitting your Expression of Interest or registering on the 'Atamis Electronic Sourcing system please contact the Atamis helpdesk via email: support@atamis.co.uk.

All communications from providers should come through the Atamis portal. Strictly no other forms of communication to 2gether Support Solutions or the Trust will be accepted (including telephone calls, postal queries/submissions, faxes or email communications) during this period.

2gether Support Solutions are aware of our transparency obligations under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Please note for those expressing an interest for these services, doing so does not guarantee that you will not be required to register for any future procurement activities and you should not rely on your response to this notice as confirmation that 2gether Support Solutions will proceed further with either this, or other such, activities.

2gether Support Solutions reserves the right not to proceed with the award of the contract.

Neither 2gether Support Solutions nor the Trust shall be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by any provider in connection with the completion and return of the information requested in this intended approach notice or in completion, or submission, of any response, irrespective of the outcome of the process if the process is cancelled or postponed for whatever reason.

All dates, timescales and values specified in this intended approach notice are provisional and 2gether Support Solutions reserves the right to change these.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

2Gether Support Solutions Limited

William Harvey Hospital, Kennington Road, Ashford

Kent

TN24 0LZ

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.2gethersupportsolutions.org/>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

2Gether Support Solutions Limited

William Harvey Hospital, Kennington Road, Ashford

Kent

TN24 0LZ

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.2gethersupportsolutions.org/>

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

2Gether Support Solutions Limited

William Harvey Hospital, Kennington Road, Ashford

Kent

TN24 0LZ

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.2gethersupportsolutions.org/>