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Contract

NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057486

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059c98

Published 17 September 2025, 4:53pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Rd,

Basildon

SS14 3HG

Email

cariad.burgess@attain.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH3 - Essex

National registration number

99E

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.midandsouthessex.ics.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

NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems

Reference number

ACE-0840-2025-MSE

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85323000 - Community health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Urgent award notice under the Provider Selection Regime 2023 for the provision of NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems Services for NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (herein referred to as 'the Authority').

The awarded contract is for the provision of NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological

Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems Services, that are aimed at improving mental health outcomes by providing evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The services will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face, online, and telephone consultations. It will cater to individuals experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, ensuring timely access to professional support.

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: £4,505,768

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

Main site or place of performance

Mid and South Essex Health Economy

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is confirmation of an urgent award having being made due to an urgent circumstance. This urgent award notice is published under the Provider Selection Regime 2023 for the provision of NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems Services for NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (herein referred to as 'the Authority').

The awarded contract is for the provision of NHS Talking Therapies and Psychological Therapies for Severe Mental Health Problems Services, that are aimed at improving mental health outcomes by providing evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The services will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face, online, and telephone consultations. It will cater to individuals experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, ensuring timely access to professional support.

This contract is being awarded on an urgent basis due the Competitive Process being under Review, necessitating the continuation of services with the current provider to avoid disruption. A delay in awarding this contract through standard procurement routes would have led to a service gap, negatively impacting service users by increasing waiting times

and deteriorating mental health conditions.

Due to urgent circumstances, the Authority has awarded an 8-month contract to incumbent provider: Essex Partnership University Foundation Trust (EPUT)

The contract period is for a total of 8-months from 01st August 2025 - 31st March 2026. The total aggregate contract value is estimated at £4,505,768.00

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: to address immediate risks to safety and quality of care /
Weighting: 100

Price - Weighting: 100

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:

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under 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 in this award. This urgent award notice has been published within 30 days of the Authority obtaining contract signature.

Rationale as to why this provider has been awarded:

In line with the guidance for exemptions in urgent situations under the Provider Selection Regime (PSR), the current provider has been awarded the contract due to the following reasons:

- Continuity of Care: The current provider has established relationships with service users, ensuring seamless care and avoiding disruption that could arise from transitioning to a new provider.
- Immediate Capacity and Expertise: The provider possesses the necessary infrastructure, workforce, and clinical expertise to continue delivering services without requiring additional mobilisation time.
- Avoidance of Service Gap: Appointing a new provider would require a significant transition period, during which service users could experience delays or a temporary lack of access to critical mental health support.
- Compliance with Urgent Procurement Regulations: this urgent award is justified as the ICB has identified extreme urgency that prevents the implementation of a competitive tender process to cover the service provision.

Proposed review date to conduct a full application of the PSR for that service: N/A as the Authority is undergoing a Review of the Competitive Procurement Process.

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

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 August 2025

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

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

The Lodge, Lodge Approach, Runwell,

Wickford

SS11 7XX

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £4,505,768

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This contract has been awarded under the urgent circumstances provision of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). This contract has been awarded under 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 in this award. This urgent award notice has been published within 30 days of the Authority obtaining contract signature.

Proposed review date to conduct a full application of the PSR for that service: N/A as the Authority is undergoing Review of Competitive Procurement Process.

Details of Decision Makers:

Mid and South Essex ICB Operation Group

Mid and South Essex ICB Executive Team

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- Compliance with Urgent Procurement Regulations: this urgent award is justified as the ICB has identified extreme urgency that prevents the implementation of a competitive tender process to cover the service provision.

No conflicts of interest have been identified. The Authority is managing COIs as part of the procurement process.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board

Phoenix House, Christopher Martin Rd,

Basildon

SS14 3HG

Email

cariad.burgess@attain.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom