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Tender

Prison Democratic Therapeutic Communities – Integrated Quality Audit Processes

Ministry of Justice

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

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Scope

Description

Democratic Therapeutic Communities (DTCs) in His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) including Therapeutic Communities Plus (TC+) for offenders with Learning Disabilities (LD) are a recognised offending behaviour programme designed with the aim of reducing reoffending, some having been in existence within the prison system for more than 50 years. They form part of the National Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) Pathway, jointly commissioned between HMPPS and NHS England, offering a pathway of interventions for male and female offenders with complex needs.

There are currently 14 DTCs operating in the Prison Service; 11 of these delivering the DTC core model within five establishments; and three delivering the TC+ model.

DTCs in prisons aim to reduce re-offending through challenging offence-related risk factors. They address the interpersonal problems, attitudes, thinking and emotions of offenders and aim to engage in treatment those who also have additional emotional and psychological needs.

DTCs can provide intervention for offenders with impaired psychological functioning and seek to engage offenders who may not be suitable to undertake other accredited Offending Behaviour Programmes. They are an intensive intervention - prisoners will be expected to remain in therapy for at least 18 months and more likely for two years. Therefore, places in DTCs are normally reserved for offenders serving longer sentences, who have a higher likelihood of re-offending, or who are judged to present a high risk of harm to others.

DTCs have a strong evidence base underpinning their theoretical model of change that should be delivered in accordance with a set of manuals which have been accredited by the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAAP).

The prison DTCs participate in a mandatory integrated standards-based process of quality assurance processes. These processes require continued development to ensure an effective and appropriate means of measuring the therapeutic environment and the quality of the therapy delivered.

The MoJ requires a Supplier to design, develop, deliver and review an integrated standards-based audit and quality improvement process for all DTCs in HMPPS including TC+.

The service is to be delivered incorporating a full clinical audit, using specialist auditors, within each cycle that measures each DTC's compliance with the detailed and accredited operating models for reducing reoffending. This review process will provide a measure of the quality of the intervention as a DTC and its clinical integrity; additionally, it will provide an assessment of clinical performance and report to the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel (CSAAP) in line with accreditation requirements.

The Supplier must also be able to provide avenues for shared learning for all HMPPS DTCs, support their overall development, provide workforce development opportunities for training and improvements in the clinical skills and knowledge of DTC staff and facilitate access to relevant knowledge and learning opportunities.

Critically, the clinical evaluation and quality improvement processes will need to be delivered through a methodology that is in keeping with the philosophy and values of the DTC model and will support the specific therapeutic and clinical requirements of its operation

If you are interested this opportunity and would like to see the full specification, please email us at MoJProcurement.Off@justice.gov.uk

Total value (estimated)

- £600,000 excluding VAT
- £720,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2032
- 6 years

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The Authority reserves the right to modify the Contract to extend its duration by up to two (2) years beyond the original expiry date, solely for the purpose of ensuring service continuity. Any such extension will be subject to compliance with applicable procurement regulations and will require written agreement by both Parties

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85100000 - Health services
 - 79212000 - Auditing services
-

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

8 December 2025, 11:59pm

Tender submission deadline

9 January 2026, 11:00am

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 January 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type
Evaluation Price	Evaluation Price will be calculated using the price provided by bidders within the Commercial Envelope.	Price
Technical Questions	Overall technical score will be determined by the sum of the weighted scores for the following Technical questions (question weighting in brackets): Methodology & Approach 30% Expertise & Capability 25% Quality Assurance 25% Contract Management 10% Social Value & Sustainability 10%	Quality

Weighting description

The Final Evaluation will be determined by Price Per Quality Point (PQP), using the following formula:

Evaluation Price / Overall Technical Score = PQP score

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

Ministry of Justice

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDNN-2773-HVYN

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United Kingdom

Contact name: Sarah Young

Email: CommercialStandards@justice.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/procurement>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government