

Provider Selection Regime Key Criteria

Relative Importance

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Introduction

This document describes how each bidder will be assessed against the Key Criteria of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR). It also details their relative importance when applied to the Award for **the commissioning to provide 395 SLT assessments and 60 MDT panel attendance for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals ASD pathway to delivered within a 12-month contract.**

Relative Importance

Key Criteria	Relative Importance (rank 1-5)	Justification of why the rank is assigned and what the contract is expected to deliver to meet this criteria
quality and innovation, that is the need to ensure good quality services and the need to support the potential for the development and implementation of new or significantly improved services or processes that will improve the delivery of health care or health outcomes,	2	<p>To ensure high-quality service delivery, the outsourced Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) observational assessments must produce clear, detailed, and clinically accurate reports that directly contribute to a child's ASD diagnostic assessment. Providers must have demonstrable experience in working with neurodiverse populations, particularly in observing and assessing children within educational settings. Reports should comprehensively describe the child's speech, language, and communication profile, social interaction skills, and any functional needs or barriers, using evidence-based observation frameworks where appropriate. These outputs must meet the standards required by the local ASD diagnostic pathway and be suitable for inclusion in multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussions and diagnostic decision-making.</p> <p>The provider must ensure consistency in the quality and structure of reports, and a commitment to ongoing quality assurance processes, such as clinical audit, feedback loops, and workforce supervision or peer review. While innovation is not the primary focus of this contract, providers should demonstrate a willingness and capacity to adapt and refine service processes over time in response to emerging best practice or local pathway developments. This includes openness to</p>

		adopting improved tools or methods that may enhance clarity, reduce diagnostic delays, or improve outcomes for children and families in the future.
value, that is the need to strive to achieve good value in terms of the balance of costs, overall benefits and the financial implications of a proposed contracting arrangement	1	Value will be assessed based on the rules detailed in the Invitation to Tender document.
<p>integration, collaboration and service sustainability, that is the extent to which services can be provided in—</p> <p>(i)an integrated way (including with other health care services, health-related services or social care services),</p> <p>(ii)a collaborative way (including with providers and with persons providing health-related services or social care services), and</p> <p>(iii)a sustainable way (which includes the stability of good quality health care services or service continuity of health care services),</p>	3	Providers must work closely with schools and NHS teams to ensure joined-up service delivery. The ability to engage in MDTs and maintain consistent communication with stakeholders is critical. The provider must show evidence of workforce stability, governance, and capacity planning to ensure continuity and long-term service resilience.
improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice, that is ensuring accessibility to services and treatments for all eligible patients, improving health inequalities and ensuring that patients have choice in respect of their health care	4	Providers must demonstrate equitable access across diverse communities and geographies in Lancashire and South Cumbria. This includes delivery within schools, nurseries or homes/other social settings, capacity to meet demand in under-served areas, and accessible service models. The contract should support flexibility of access and reflect a commitment to inclusive practice.
social value, that is whether what is proposed might improve economic, social and environmental well-being in the geographical area relevant to a proposed contracting arrangement.	5	While not all providers may be social enterprises, an expectation for contractors to contribute positively to the local community – through employment, upskilling of education staff, family engagement, or environmental sustainability. Providers should be able to describe how they will generate social value over the course of the contract and how impact will be measured.

Assessment

For each of the Key Criteria (excluding Value) each Bidder will be given a score in line with the below definitions.

Assessment Matrix	
5	Excellent - Specification requirement has been fully met/ all information requested is fully detailed and comprehensive.
3	Satisfactory – Basic specification requirement has been met but not fully detailed, some elements are missing or unclear.
1	Poor – Response contains no detail/ is confusing/ is contradictory or response has not met all of the specification requirements.
0	Unacceptable – No response provided, or response fails to answer the question.