

OPPORTUNITY NOTICE – ONLINE COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR 11 – 18 YEAR OLDS IN NHS LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPs (CCG)

This is a call for competition. The 3 Leicestershire CCG's will be re-commissioning their Online Counselling Services for 11 – 18-year-olds. The Commissioners are planning to procure a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) wide Online Counselling service from June 2021.

The Commissioners wish to receive responses to the Invitation to Tender (ITT) from suitably qualified and experienced Providers with the necessary capacity and capability (or a demonstrable ability to provide the necessary capacity and capability) to provide the range of services required.

The online counselling service will provide children and young people (C&YP) from the ages 11-18 years old resident and registered with a GP in Leicestershire County, Leicester City and Rutland who are experiencing emotional and or mental wellbeing/ mental health issues with direct access to friendly safe information, support and advice, including:

- access to web chat,
- one to one chat sessions,
- email correspondence,
- Easy to use website for information and articles,
- An online one-to-one counselling service which is delivered via instant messaging,
- live chat session with trained counsellors according to each client's needs in an age-appropriate way,
- a secondary intervention of signposting to other local and national agencies for ongoing support, advice and information to address client's needs.

The objectives and expected outcomes are:

- Experience of delivering online counselling and flowing data to the Mental Health Services Dataset (MHSDS),
- Deliver an accessible service to the diverse communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, particularly targeting under-represented groups,
- Supporting integration of online counselling provision within mental health services at a neighbourhood and place-based level.
-

The Contract shall be for a term of three (3) years from the Service start date with the possibility of extending the term by up to another 24 months beyond the initial contracted term at Commissioners' request. The contract start date will be the 1st of June 2021.

The funding for the service will be a block contract with a value of £140k per annum, for a whole total contract value of up to £700k if the extension option is exercised in full after the initial three (3) years. The Commissioners will reserve the right not to consider Bids that are either above the affordability threshold (which is £140k per annum or £700k for the whole length of the contract if extensions used) or unusually low.

It is proposed that the terms and conditions of all the services, will reflect those contained in the NHS England Standard NHS Contract.

Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit

The invitation to tender (ITT) will be available from 20th January 2021 on M&L CSU Bravo portal (see below) and it will have a deadline for submissions 15th February 2021. Clarifications may be asked during the procurement process up to a week before the ITT deadline.

Interested providers are guided to the MLCSU eProcurement portal Bravo at <https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk> to register their interest and gain access to this procurement's documents and more specific information.

Please see instructions below on how to register on the portal.

To register on the Bravo portal

If your organisation has registered previously, you do not need to re-register.

- 1) Register on the portal webpage at <https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk> (registration and use of the website is free of charge).
- 2) Once registered, candidates must Express their Interest (when the tender is published) by:
 - a) logging into the ML CSU eTendering Bravo portal
 - b) selecting response to ITT_799,
 - c) select Open Access ITT_799,
 - d) search for and access listing related to this contract and view details,
 - e) click on Express Interest link.
- 3) Once you have expressed your interest, please access the My ITTs page, where you can view all the documentation (and download if required) and construct your reply in the bravo online questionnaire, as instructed. The deadline will be detailed in the tender documentation.

For technical support in submitting your Expression of Interest or registering on the 'Bravo Solution' Electronic Sourcing system please contact the Bravo Solution helpdesk via Tel: 0800 069 8630 or email: help@bravosolution.co.uk

All communications from Bidders (including their Bidder Members) during the period of the Procurement must be directed to MLCSU via the 'messaging' area within the ML CSU online procurement portal: <https://mlcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>. Strictly no other forms of communication to MLCSU or the Commissioner will be accepted (including telephone calls, postal queries/submissions, faxes or email communications) during this period.

NOTES

“Light Touch Regime” services

This procurement is for clinical services which are Light Touch Regime services for the purpose of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as specified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations (“Regulations”). Accordingly, the contracting authorities are only bound by those parts of the Regulations detailed in Chapter 3 Particular Procurement Regimes Section 7. The contracting authorities are not voluntarily following any other part of the Regulations.

The procedure which the contracting authorities are following is set out in the tender. As the CCG is a relevant body for the purpose of the National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) (No 2) Regulations 2013 these Regulations also apply to this procurement.

Right to Cancel

The contracting authority reserves the right to discontinue the procurement process at any time, which shall include the right not to award a contract or contracts and does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender, or any tender received, and reserves the right to award a contract in part, or to call for new tenders should it consider this necessary. The contracting authority shall not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by any candidate or tenderer in connection with the completion and return of the information requested in this Contract Notice, or in the completion or submission of any tender, irrespective of the outcome of the competition or if the

competition is cancelled or postponed. All dates, time periods and values specified in this notice are provisional and the contracting authority reserves the right to change these.

Transparency

The contracting authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and may be required to disclose information received in the course of this procurement under FOIA or the EIR. In addition, and in accordance with the UK Government's policies on transparency, the contracting authority intends to publish procurement documentation and the text of any resulting contractual arrangements, subject to possible redactions at the discretion of the contracting authority. Any redactions, whether in relation to information requests under FOIA, the EIR or policies on transparency will be in accordance with those grounds prescribed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Further information on transparency can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-and-contracting-transparency-requirements-guidance>