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**Market Testing – Mental Health Resilience Network (MHRN)**

# Overview

The council is reviewing the MHRN, which was developed as part of the vision for delivering the ‘Community Resilience’ priority area of the NHS Camden Local Care Strategy (LCS) and the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and our Camden 2025 Plan. Camden’s Mental Health Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), which includes statutory as well as Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) providers, has also identified community mental health a priority within the Community Mental Health Framework. A strategic framework for the development of mental health services that includes the development of a single pathway of services as part of an integrated, partnership model.

**Details of the services**

The MHRN is made up of VCS organisations that work in partnership with both Camden and Islington and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trusts. The services included in this network provide community-based support to people with common mental health issues, as well as people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Common objectives across the services are to intervene early, with preventative support, to raise public awareness and to reduce the stigma associated with mental ill health

Contracts for the MHRN are due to end March 2022, and there are seven (7) services provided by four (4) VCS organisations who are within scope for this re- commissioning, the services are:

1. **6 – 8 Week Prevention Service** - this delivers a course of one-to-one weekly sessions for people who need support through the challenges in their life affecting their mental health
2. **Healthy Minds Academy**- this service brings a range of volunteering opportunities together into one community, with the aim of increasing wellbeing.
3. **Cultural Advocacy Project**- this service works alongside different BAME communities to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing and to develop peer support groups.
4. **Healthy Minds Community Programme** - this offers a wide range of free opportunities to attend workshops, and group sessions across Camden.
5. **Healthy Minds Social Prescribing**- this service is delivered by a team embedded within C&I and takes referrals from both primary and secondary care. It aims to support people to identify their interests and help them discover where they can pursue these.
6. **Peer Mentoring**- this project trains people with mental health needs, who are further on in their recovery journey, to become peer mentors and support other people to develop and achieve practical recovery goals.
7. **Service User Involvement**- this offers a range of opportunities for people to be involved in, engage with and shape services for people with mental health and/or substance misuse needs.
8. **Market testing**

The Council wishes to undertake soft market testing on the re-commissioning of these services, and therefore would welcome the views of providers on the questions set out below.

Interested parties will not be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this soft market testing and a response to this notice does not guarantee any invitation to participate in any future public procurement process that the Council may conduct.

This notice does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services for the Council and the Council is not bound to accept any proposals offered. The Council is not liable for any costs, fees or expenses incurred by any party participating in the soft market testing exercise. Any procurement of any services by the Council in due course will be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Any responses provided will not be treated as commercially confidential, unless expressed by the providing party, and may be used by the Council in the final service specifications used for the contracts, but no organisation will be individually identified.

We would like to receive feedback on the following areas (see questions in section 5) and any other comments that you may have. Organisations will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions on the specification should a procurement process be undertaken.

Following this market testing exercise the Council intends, subject to governance to run a commissioning exercise, which would likely include the following key stages (see indicative timeframe in section 4).

1. **Indicative timeframe**

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| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Review of the current model and engagement with market and residents | January 2021 – March 2021 |
| Tender advert released | May 2021 |
| Deadline for tender | Late June 2021 |
| Presentation and dialogue/negotiation period | June/July 2021 |
| Final tender deadline | 4th October 2021 |
| Contract award | Early-December 2021 |
| Commencement Date of Contract | 1st April 2022 |

**Please note that these dates have not been finalised and are subject to change.**

1. **Market Questionnaire**

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| 1. What is your general level of interest in bidding for these contracts? (Please briefly explain why below) |
| * High (very likely to bid) * Medium (may bid) * Low (unlikely to bid) |
| 1. In your experience, what are the benefits of community mental health services Vs statutory mental health services? |
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| 1. The contracting models being considered are: 2. An Alliance Contract, whereby a set of providers enter into a single arrangement with CCG/Council to deliver services. Responsibility and risk to meet agreed service outcomes are shared in this model and providers work collaboratively to innovate and achieve efficiencies across the pathway of services 3. The Lead Provider, the contracted organisation in this model is an accountable lead provider, that co-ordinates service provision and integration. The lead provider can be a new or existing provider from the local health care economy or a consortium of providers. In Camden this would include C&I services and all commissioned VCS providers, whereby potentially C&I or a VCS organisation could become the lead provider.   Please tell us below your preferred option and why? |
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| 1. What impact do you think COVID 19 will have on the models for community mental health services? For example; 2. Will they become less face to face and more virtual? 3. Will there be an impact on service capacity, and/ or service cost per hour? |
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| 1. What are the barriers to VCS groups working as well as they could together, and what could be done to mitigate this? |
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| 1. Are there any organisations/ resources that you think would be particularly useful to work closer with to improve mental health outcomes in the borough? if yes, please tell us below |
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| 1. How do you deliver Social Value (if you currently deliver a service similar to these)?   Please see <https://www.socialvalueuk.org/what-is-social-value/the-principles-of-social-value/> for more information |
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| 1. How do you think you may be able to deliver Social Value as part of any future contract for these services? |
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| 1. How would you make sure that all diverse communities have equal access to these services? Is there anything that you are currently doing to promote equalities and diversity within any current contracts you have? |
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1. **General Information**

Following this market testing exercise Camden Council will consider options for developing the provision in question.

**Please return your completed questionnaire by 2.00pm 28th February 2021 to:**

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