**Expression of Interest (EOI) Request**

**Project Title: Expression of Interest for Outsourced Podiatry Services to Clear Backlog**

**Contracting Authority: East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT)**

**Issue Date: 29th October 2024**

**Deadline for Submission of EOI: 8th November 2024**

**1. Introduction**

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified providers who can deliver outsourced podiatry services to help clear a backlog of patients. This opportunity is open to providers within a specified radius of ESNEFT locations, and multiple providers may be engaged if necessary to meet the demand.

**2. Background**

ESNEFT is experiencing a backlog of patients awaiting podiatry services. Approximately 1000 patients are currently on the waitlist. The goal is to outsource care to external providers who can deliver efficient and high-quality podiatry services at their own premises, ensuring patients receive timely treatment and appropriate self-management advice.

**3. Scope of Service**

Scope of Service is provided in the specification for service under **Appendix A** below.

**5. Essential Criteria for Providers**

Interested providers must meet the following essential criteria:

(Please strikethrough YES/NO as relevant)

1. Do you have a premises within 20 mile radius of Colchester/Clacton which you could provide this podiatry service from within 2 week time period of start of contract and before end of March 2025? If YES, Please provide the address.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| YES | NO |

1. Will you be able to provide evidence of:

* The HCPC professional registration of the clinicians

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| YES | NO |

* CQC registration where applicable

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| YES | NO |

* Evidence for professional indemnity insurance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| YES | NO |

* Evidence of public liability insurance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| YES | NO |

**6. Expression of Interest Submission**

Interested providers are invited to submit their EOI by **16:00 hours on 8th November 2024.**

The EOI should include the following:

Provider Information: Name, address, and contact details.

Service Capability Statement: A brief outline of the services you can offer, including the conditions you can treat, and the capacity for both clinic and home visits.

Service Location: Confirmation of your ability to provide services within the specified radius of ESNEFT locations. Please specify your clinic address(es) and area of operation.

Compliance with Essential Criteria: Brief descriptions or documentation evidencing compliance with the essential criteria listed above.

Additional Information (Optional): Any other relevant information you believe supports your expression of interest.

**7. Next Steps**

Based on the expressions of interest received, ESNEFT may proceed to a formal tender process. Providers who demonstrate the ability to meet the essential criteria and service requirements may be invited to participate. Multiple providers may be appointed to ensure full coverage of patient needs.

**8. Submission Details**

Please submit your EOI **via Email to** [**Jennis.Varghese@esneft.nhs.uk**](mailto:Jennis.Varghese@esneft.nhs.uk) **by 16:00 hours on 8th November 2024.**

**9. Contact for Queries**

For any questions or further information, please contact: Contact Name: Jennis Varghese

Email: Jennis.Varghese@esneft.nhs.uk

**Appendix A**

**Outsourcing of Podiatry Services – ESNEFT 2338**

**3. Scope of Services**

The scope of this tender includes the following:

**3.1 Types of Patients Included, and who will be referred to the provider by ESNEFT once validated**

* Biomechanics issues
* Routine, non-urgent cases
* Heel pain requiring 121 assessment and intervention, not suitable for groups, e.g., previously seen by physiotherapy or shockwave therapy.
* Bunions
* Neuroma
* Corns
* Non-specific foot pain
* Fungal nails

**3.2 Exclusions**

* Patients under 18 years of age
* Patients with moderate and high-risk diabetic foot (as defined by NICE guidelines) at the point of referral.
* Patients who have not engaged with ESNEFTs positive response programme to confirm still requiring treatment.

**4. Service Model**

The provider will be responsible for the entire episode of care, including:

* **Assessment:** Evaluate the patient and determine necessary treatment.
* **Treatment:** Deliver appropriate podiatry treatment based on assessment.
* **Discharge:** Provide self-management advice and discharge patients when appropriate. NB if the patient is referred back to us within 12 weeks for the same issue they were seen by provider for, the provider is expected to see the patient again within the same episode of care.
* **Onward Referrals:** Complete necessary referrals, either to another service or back to the patient's GP if direct referral is not possible. This includes but is not limited to clinical issues and social concerns, need for social prescribing, safeguarding, wellbeing and befriending.

The service is to be provided by HCPC registered podiatrists in your own premises or home visits.

The service must align with ESNEFT’s criteria, ensuring patients are informed about what to expect for future podiatry needs.

The ESNEFT service cannot provide routine nail care.

We assess podiatric and medical need using the below grid. The highest single score for podiatrist need is added with the highest medical need to create the final score. The box content is indicative, and clinician judgement on best fit should be applied. Scores of 4 and under are advised to self-manage.



It is anticipated that most referrals sent over will score 4 on assessment or will be able to score 4 after intervention by the provider.

Patients will be allocated to provider on the basis patient choice and capacity offered by the provider, and the cost of the episode of care.

**4.1 Handling of Wound Management**

Patients with known wounds will not be outsourced to the provider. However, if a wound is identified upon presentation at the provider’s premises, the provider is expected to offer first-line management and contact ESNEFT’s duty podiatrist to discuss transfer back to ESNEFT’s wound management service.

**4.2 Information Sharing**

At the point of transfer to the provider, patients will no longer be under the care of ESNEFT. Patients will be consented by ESNEFT to have their information, including the original referral and any relevant local notes (pertinent to podiatry), transferred to the provider.

The provider must comply with all relevant data protection regulations and standards for handling personal information.

**5. Requirements for Providers**

Providers must accept responsibility for:

* Professional registration with appropriate bodies
* Adequate insurance coverage
* Information Governance (IG) compliance
* Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols
* Health and safety policies, including lone working arrangements and risk assessments.
* Clinic space in which to complete the contacts within 20 miles of central Colchester or Clacton, or own arrangements to home visit within that radius.

**6. Contract Reporting**

The service provider must submit monthly reports to ESNEFT that include:

* Number of patients accepted and treated.
* Number of contacts per month
* Average contacts per episode of care
* Length of each episode of care
* Number of patients discharged per month.
* Outcome of discharge e.g. improved and discharged; deteriorated; referred on.
* Declaration of any complaints/safeguards

**7. Financial Arrangements**

The contract will be based on a "cost per patient/episode of care" model. Providers are requested to submit their proposed costs on this basis, taking into consideration that a significant proportion of cases may only a short course of intervention.

**11. Terms & Conditions**

* Terms and Conditions for the contract will be based on NHS Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Services under the new Provider Selection Regime (PSR).