**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:**

**ASD Assessments**

**North East London NHS Foundation Trust**

**Completed Responses to be submitted by:**

**04 September 2023 at 13:00**

To: Nichola Lane

Senior Procurement Specialist

Via. [Welcome (site.com)](https://atamis-1928.my.site.com/s/Welcome)

REF: To understand the market for providing ASD Assessment

NOTE: Please respond to this request via the Atamis portal.

## **Introduction**

North East London NHS Foundation Trust requires support from a competitive supplier to assist in working with Paediatric patients to complete ASD diagnostic assessments supporting the child on the full ASD pathway. The Supplier needs to have the resources required to provide safe and effective care within an appropriate environment to complete face-to-face assessments.

Critical to success of the Trust is the requirement to assist NELFT in minimising the waiting lists currently held across North East London areas, for ASD diagnostic testing and management. Suppliers will be required to evidence how they can provide the diagnostic assessments with a clear timeline on processes involved, from Referral through to diagnosis for children aged 3-18.

The goals of this requirement are:

* to reduce the diagnostic ASD backlog quantity
* referral to diagnostic outcome within the NICE guidance timeframe of 13 weeks with 6 weeks diagnostic feedback follow up.
* Clinical quality of care aligned to best practice guidelines and ASD pathway supporting effective delivery of care.

## Trust(s) Background

**North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT)**

1.1 North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) provides a range of healthcare services to people living in northeast London and in neighbouring Essex; offering specialist mental health and community services for people living in Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering; and additional community services in South West Essex.

1.2 Our mental health services include:

• specialist inpatient and community-based treatment and care for people experiencing acute mental illness

• help for children and young people with emotional

• behavioural or mental health difficulties; care for people with dementia

• support for people with problems associated with drug and alcohol misuse

1.3 Our community services are provided in clinics, hospitals and in people’s own homes – they include:

• care and support for people living with long term conditions such as diabetes

• speech and language therapy

• health visiting, district and school nursing

• many services that in other areas may be provided in hospital, such as blood testing, footcare and children’s audiology

1.4 NELFT operates across a number of functional units; 6 Borough-based Integrated Care Directorates (ICDs), which are engaged in the direct provision of health care services. Additional NELFT contains the Corporate Function that supports the service-delivery ICDs with core business functions including Estates, Finance, HR and IT. This contract’s requirement covers the grounds surrounding both Corpoate and Healthcare Provision elements of the Trust, although it is primarily focused within the M25 in the London-based geographical region.

## Draft Statement of Requirements

As per NICE guidance, the expectation from the external clinical provider is to complete the ASD diagnostic within 13 weeks from patient referral and the optional post-diagnostic clinic six weeks following diagnostic feedback appointment. NICE guidance states that the total clinical hours required for all assessments and information gathering to get to the diagnosis feedback part of the pathway is equal to 16 clinical hours per patient on the assessment and diagnostic element of the ASD pathway.

Various preparatory stages will need to take place first before commencing clinical work as part of the programme of backlog recovery work, these will include clinical and on-site meetings to confirm clinical processes, quality assurance, document templates, safeguarding processes etc which will all form part of the contract.

The requirement at NELFT is to understand the capability of externally sourced suppliers to provide a service to NELFT, to help clear the current waiting list of children for ASD diagnostic Assessments in the community.

## Request For Information – Questions

Suppliers are asked to respond to the below questions to the best of their knowledge to assist in this RFI.

1. The Trust is seeking to understand the number of suppliers in the market who would be interested in providing a service that is in line to that of the draft specification. Please confirm whether you would be interested in these services.
2. Please confirm how many patients a budget of £160,000.00 would cover to deliver children on the full ASD pathway and how many sessions each patient would receive.
3. Please confirm on total cost per patient referred onto the full ASD pathway if financial block contract is maximised and NELFT require further capacity on cost/activity basis.
4. Please confirm the multidisciplinary clinical skill-mix used to assess, diagnose, and manage patients on the full ASD pathway.
5. Please confirm whether administration support will be provided to progress patients on the ASD pathway
6. Please confirm how many weeks on average the patient would spend under your care if referred onto the ASD pathway and what would be your average timeline be to deliver 100 patients.
7. Please confirm whether you have the facilities to complete face to face assessments or if the Trust would be expected to provide these (Trust has 8 available rooms on Friday, 10 on Saturday and 10 on Sunday at the Barking site)
8. Please advise if you have experience working with Paediatrics to diagnose ASD.
9. Please advise if you have experience working with an NHS Trust for ASD Assessments, can you share who you have worked with?
10. Please advise if your staff have experience with the Rio system.
11. Please provide any examples of document templates used throughout the assessment period.
12. Lastly, please confirm if you are a supplier on the Multi Quote platform. [Login To MultiQuote](https://suppliers.multiquote.com/Page/Login.aspx)

## Timetable and Next Steps

This section should provide known next steps for the project. This should be tailored per project.

Responses to this RFI must be submitted according to the cover page of the document. All responses must be sent via the Atamis portal.

Include timetable where relevant.

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| **DATE** | **ACTIVITY** |
| 18/08/2023 | Publication of the Request for Information |
| 04/09/2023 | Deadline for submission of a RFI Response |
| 12/09/2023 | Confirm next steps to RFI Respondents |