

FINAL VEAT NOTICE
NHS HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING
GROUPS
NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCGs Adult Autism Service

Short description of the contract or purchase(s):

This is a Voluntary Ex Ante notice for the purpose of Transparency and is not a call for competition.

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCGs wish to publish their intent with regards to the following service – Autism Assessment, Diagnosis and Support Service for Adults.

This notice is to advise the market of the intent to award this contract to the current provider, The Family Psychologist, without a call for competition. Under the process the notice is advertised for a period of ten calendar days and discussions with the provider, if there are no challenges, will commence at the close of the standstill period at midnight Friday 14th February 2020. Any objections to this notice should be lodged with the Procurement lead @ Geraldine.hickman@nhs.net

The Family Psychologist provides a service for the population of Worcestershire that offers assessment, diagnosis and post-diagnostic support for adults who present with a suspected Autistic Spectrum Condition and a diagnosis service for the population of Herefordshire.

Service description

The elements of the service are described below;

a) Initial assessment or triage:

The Service Provider will be expected to carry out an initial triage to define the needs of the service user and together agree the outcomes required and approximate timescales of support.

b) Autism specific support:

A suitable combination of one to one or group support to provide short-term support to develop an individual support plan and strategies. It is expected that a service user and their family will be supported for no more than four sessions.

The support may be:

- Low level support: for adults who either do not go through a clinical diagnosis or need low level support prior to undergoing the clinical diagnosis. It is expected that a substantial number of service users will access this element of the service, some of whom will not need to progress to higher level support or to c) below or
- Higher level support: this is likely to be for adult's post-diagnosis, it is anticipated that a smaller number of service users will access this element of the service.

c) Diagnosis:

Generally, a diagnosis will be agreed if the service user demonstrates significant social disability ***in addition to the clinical presentation*** based on the conditions below;

- Significant risk of self-harm, harm to others, risk of harm from others, or serious self-neglect.
- Substantial disability caused by illness, such as inability to self-care, care for dependants, or sustains relationships.

- Recurring crises leading to frequent admissions/interventions.
- Significant risk of homelessness, imprisonment, loss of work or supportive relationships.
- Family support or designated support agency unable to cope with behaviours

d) Working with other providers across pathways

Providing expert advice to health and social care providers on autism and their role in enabling access to support through appropriate reasonable adjustments.

Required service standards

NICE Guidelines require professionals involved in the assessment to:

- be undertaken by professionals who are trained and competent
- be team-based and draw on a range of professions and skills

The provider

Annual value for this service is £245k per annum; £200K for the population of Worcestershire and £45K for the population of Herefordshire.

The CCG are looking to award this contract to the incumbent provider for a period of two years from 1st April 2020.

Reasons for not going out to competition include the following

1. The current service is wholly embedded in a wider range of services and to extricate the current provision from this would be detrimental to the patient and patient pathway.
2. The Provider has built important relationships and pathways with NHS providers to ensure providers can access the service and are supported to manage bereaved relatives and carers.
3. The value of this service is below the OJEU threshold and a full procurement process would not be proportionate, or likely to improve the impact of the service for patients via a competitive process. The last time this service went out to competition only one provider (the incumbent) came forward and expressed interest in supply.

“Light Touch Regime” services: This service is classified as clinical which comes under the Light Touch Regime services for the purpose of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as specified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations (“Regulations”). The contracting authorities are not voluntarily following any other part of the Regulations. 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. 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 service under FOIA or the EIR. In addition, and in accordance with the UK Government's policies on transparency. This service may be 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>”