

**Contract Finder Advertisement 18/01/2017**

**AQP for Audiology Adult Hearing Service for Age-Related Hearing Loss (non-complex) for NHS South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SWCCG).**

NHS Arden & GEM CSU is conducting this procurement exercise on behalf of NHS South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SWCCG) to seek suitably qualified and experienced providers to deliver the Any Qualified Provider (AQP) for Adult Hearing Service for Age-Related Hearing Loss (non-complex).

The Adult Hearing AQP Service is aimed at adults aged 55 years old and over experiencing difficulties with their hearing and communication where a GP considers they may benefit from hearing assessment and care, including the option of trying hearing aids to reduce these difficulties.

The aim is to provide a comprehensive community-based, patient-centred, adult hearing service for age-related hearing loss in line with national guidance and local requirements.

The purpose of the AQP for Adult Hearing Service is to ensure:

- Equitable access to high and consistent quality care for all patients using the service
- A safe hearing service for patients that conforms to a recognised quality assurance tool e.g. the Improving Quality in Physiological Diagnostic Services Self-Assessment and Improvement Tool (IQIPS-SAIT). The service must also recognise published clinical guidelines/good practice.

It is the intention of the Commissioners to enter into a 3 year contract with an option to extend for a further 1 year with qualified providers, commencing on the 1st April 2017.

This service will be commissioned via an AQP process, therefore there will be no guaranteed volumes of activity for those providers that qualify to deliver the service. Payment is based on activity only as identified within the schedule of rates (please refer to the ITT documentation for details). Patient choice will apply at point of referral to qualified providers.

In securing services from Providers under the AQP process, SWCCG requires assurance of competence, quality and safety standards. Any provider will be eligible to join the qualified provider list subject to demonstrating the required competency against specified criteria.

**Please note: Providers who are already on the existing AQP list need to be re-accredited through this process (under ITT ITT: itt\_628 - AQP Audiology SWWCCG Lot 2 - Existing providers – Please refer to ITT Document 1) if they wish to continue to deliver services beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

The proposed tariff for this service is included in the AQP documents as Document 3: Schedule 3 – Payment. Providers must confirm their acceptance of this tariff in their submissions.

If qualified, your organisation will be required to accept the terms and conditions and be compliant with the NHS Standard Contract 2017/18 and any subsequent revisions thereof.

The ITT will be live on the 18th January 2017 on the NHS Arden GEM CSU e-tendering procurement portal (Bravo). All submissions will be evaluated using the scoring criteria which is contained within the ITT Instructions - Document 1. Clarifications may be asked during the procurement process, the deadline for ITT clarification questions is by **5pm on 10th February 2017**.

All correspondence relating to this procurement throughout all stages of the process must be managed through the NHS Arden & GEM CSU Bravo e-tendering procurement portal only.

Providers wishing to apply to deliver this service need to log onto <https://ardengemcsu.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

#### **To register on the portal:**

- » From the portal Home Page, click the 'Click Here to Register' link
- » Accept the terms & conditions for using the portal
- » Complete your organisation & personal details
- » Choose a memorable username and submit
- » You will shortly be sent an email with your unique password, please treat this securely (if you lose it there is a 'Forgot my Password' link on the portal homepage)

#### **To Access the portal and register on the ITT:**

- » Login with your unique username & password
- » From the suppliers reserved area click 'ITTs Open to All Suppliers' – this is a repository of all ITTs open to any registered supplier.
- » Browse the ITTs (there may be more than one page) and select “**AQP Audiology SWCCG Lot 1 - New Providers**” by clicking on it, the ITT code is itt\_626.
- » Note the Details buttons on the left for Navigation and the Actions below
- » Click the 'Express Interest' action –this will move the ITT from the ITTs Open to All Suppliers area to your 'My ITTs' area –this is a reserved area for ITTs that you have either been invited to or expressed interest in.