

## **Request for Information –**

### **NECS373 Online Mental Health and Wellbeing support for School Teaching Staff Service**

North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) working for and on behalf of

**NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group and Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group** (the CCGs) proposes to engage with the wider market to inform future service model development and/or commissioning intentions for the provision of an **Online Mental Health and Wellbeing support for School Teaching Staff Service** for the population of the CCG areas.

The CCGs are interested to hear from providers who could deliver a **Online Mental Health and Wellbeing support for School Teaching Staff Service** which would be integrated with Primary Care in the County Durham area. This service would be required to demonstrate the successful use of the National Mental Health Data Set to facilitate this service.

There is a need for an emotional and mental health wellbeing approach delivering:

- Evidence-based interventions
- An extension to traditional IAPT services, proposing shorter timescales for assessment and intervention via a digital one to one focussed online package.
- Focus on recovery and crisis prevention
- One to one support to school staff, working flexibly around their work portfolios at times suitable for them and therefore must include access to support outside of traditional working hours.
- Ease of access and pre-assessment care
- Self-management and psychoeducational services
- Support for carers' emotional wellbeing
- Partnership working with traditional community health providers
- A connected model for community health services

The service would be expected to gather feedback for service users to continuously improve the service and report results of the evaluation to commissioners.

The budget for this service is **£77,000 for 1 year**.

The Objectives of the service are to

- Provide an online counselling and support service 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with counsellors online from 12 noon to 10pm Monday to Friday and 6pm to 10pm at weekends (reduced hours during Christmas Bank Holidays)
- Provide an accessible, safe, secure, moderated website with online community features
- Target teachers with emotional wellbeing and/or emerging mental health problems, many of whom will require low level/targeted/short-term intervention and support.
- Use of assessment tools in order to set clear outcomes with service users
- Use agreed methods for recording discussions/activities and therapy content, and to link with other services on the delivery pathway.

## **Background**

NHS England & Improvement in conjunction with the CCGs have identified a service need to support the mental health and wellbeing of teachers through the medium of online support.

The UK's 2016 Care Act has a strong preventative focus; it sets out Public Health England's (PHE) duty to work with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Boards to deliver a preventative approach to the adult emotional and mental health agenda. The Act also means local authorities have a duty to provide preventative services to all residents, including those with physical and mental health needs, their carers, and those with emerging needs.

Choice and access were an important theme in the NHS 2014 Five Year Forward View report, which made the case for talking therapies and emotional support services being made more available to adults when needed and according to the 2015 Five Year Forward View Mental Health Taskforce Public Engagement Findings report, timely access to services is a top three priority for people looking for mental health support; and one in three people want to choose their own method of treatment.

People with severe and prolonged mental illness are at risk of dying on average 15 to 20 years earlier than other people – one of the greatest health inequalities in England; and of these deaths, 2 out of 3 are due to avoidable physical illness.

More teachers are suffering from a long-lasting mental health problem than 30 years ago, a recent study found. One in 20 teachers in England now report a mental health problem that has lasted for more than a year, up from one per cent in the 1990s, according to research from the University College London (UCL).

The rise in mental health issues reported by teachers comes amid warnings that workload pressures and long working hours have contributed to a recruitment and retention crisis. The study also shows there has been an increase in the percentage of school staff who have been prescribed antidepressant medication, from one per cent in the early 2000s to five per cent.' Source:-**Education News, The Independent (January 2020)**

71% of education professionals cited workload as the main reason for considering leaving their jobs.

60% of education professionals would not feel confident in disclosing unmanageable stress/ mental health issues to their employer

57% More than half of all education professionals have considered leaving the sector over the past two years due to pressures on their health and wellbeing

51% Of school teachers attributed work symptoms to pupil/ student behavioural issues

49% Of education professionals felt compelled to come to work all of the time when they were unwell (presenteeism) Source:- **The Teacher Wellbeing Index 2019, Education Support Charity**

### **Registering an Interest for this Market Engagement Exercise**

The CCGs are seeking to obtain input and feedback from provider organisations as part of the development of potential service models for delivery of a Online Mental Health and Wellbeing support for School Teaching Staff Service.

If your organisation would like to register an interest in responding to this market engagement exercise and obtain a copy of the Request for Information documentation:

please go to the Intend portal: <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/nhsnecsu/asp/Home>

North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) is utilising an electronic tendering tool (In-Tend) (e-Tendering system) to manage this market engagement exercise and communicate with potential bidders in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No 102).

It is free to register on In-Tend, which can be accessed at any time of day providing you have a working internet connection. Should bidders have any queries, or are having problems registering; they should contact the In-Tend helpdesk via: support@in-tend.com or call us on 0845 557 8079 / +44 (0) 114 407 0065.

The helpdesk is open Monday – Friday between 9am – 5.30pm.

**Please note that the deadline for RFI responses is 12.00 noon on 04/09/2020.**

Please note that all communications and RFI submissions will be conducted via the InTend portal.

Please note that this exercise is not part of any pre-qualification process. It is intended as an awareness, communication and information gathering exercise offering an opportunity for provider organisations to help inform potential future service models and/or commissioning intentions.