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14 March 2023

Dear

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-2867-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 30 January 2023.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. Who are the NECS Group that appeared to carry out the tendering exercise and why did the ICB (as the successor body to the Chorley and South Ribble CCG) not carry it out themselves?

Please refer to the attached Invitation to Tender document.

As per ITT Schedule 1 - North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) is a commissioning support service hosted by NHS England and is managing this procurement process for and on behalf of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

2. What were the Key Criteria, evaluation weightings, and processes used to evaluate bids and recommend a successful Bidder?

As above.

3. What were the roles and professional backgrounds of the team members who drew up the Key Criteria, evaluation processes and Criteria weightings?

The project group consisted of;

- **Commissioner Leads, NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG / NHS Greater Preston CCG;**
- **Primary Care Manager, NHS England and NHS Improvement - North West;**
- **Finance Lead, NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG / NHS Greater Preston CCG;**
- **Procurement Project Lead, NECS.**

4. What were the roles and professional backgrounds of the team members who carried out the evaluation of the tenders and formulated the final recommendation?

- **Community Participation and Engagement Manager**
- **Senior IT Project Manager**
- **Finance Manager**
- **Director of Strategic Estates, Infrastructure and Sustainability**
- **Environmental Compliance Manager**
- **Deputy Lead Nurse, Adult Health and Care Directorate**

- **Head of Communications and Engagement (Fylde Coast), Delegated lead for primary care communications**
- **Programme Lead - Community Services, Primary and Integrated Neighbourhood Care Team**
- **Equality & Inclusion Business Partner**
- **Head of Medicines**
- **IT Programme Manager**
- **Clinical Lead for Planned Care**
- **Head of Corporate Governance**
- **Senior Primary Care Manager**
- **Programme Lead – Elective Care**
- **Senior Information Governance Consultant**
- **HR Business Partner**
- **Associate Director Primary and Community**

5. How were the needs and views of patients involved in drawing up the Criteria and weightings?

The feedback from the patient engagement exercise was used to inform the service specification

6. How were the results of the 2022 GP Patients Survey used in the evaluation of Bids?

The 2022 GP Patient survey results did not form part of the evaluation process

7. How many patients (other than the professional members of the tender evaluation team) were involved in the evaluation of the Bids?

No patients were involved in the evaluation process

8. How many PCN representatives were involved in the evaluation of the Bids and from which PCNs were they drawn?

No PCN representatives were involved in the evaluation process

9. How were the ICB's 10 "Principles for working with people and communities" applied to the Tendering exercise?

The engagement undertaken was agreed at the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Committee, this had concluded before the inception of the ICB and the endorsement of the 10 principles for working with people and communities.

10. What led the ICB to conclude that the Tendering exercise would not have a substantial impact on:

- Access (for example a reduction or increase in service)
- Patients or Users
- Service Delivery (for example methods of delivery)

The services being delivered by the incumbent provider and any new provider are based on the requirements of the general medical services contract. The way in which these services are delivered is via the bid evaluation process.

11. How will the results of this exercise help the ICB develop more integrated care, in particular with the Chorley Together PCN?

The successful bidder has stated that they wish to be part of and work with the PCN

12. Can the Board describe the public involvement which has taken place before it takes a decision on the Tendering exercise, in line with its "Strategy for working with people and communities."

The contract for Withnell Health Centre was previously held by a partnership of Dr Ann Robinson and Dr Mahtab Siddiqui. NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG had no plans to change this contract. However, in December 2021, Dr Siddiqui dissolved the partnership and neither partner nominated the other to take over the contract, resulting in the termination of the then long-term contract as a direct consequence.

On 9 December 2021, the then CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) decided to award a temporary 12-month contract to Dr Ann Robinson. An award to Dr Siddiqui or another primary medical services provider was also considered at the time. This was to secure continuity of services while a public procurement process was undertaken to award a long-term contract, in accordance with the CCG's obligations under procurement law (namely, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the NHS (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) (No.2) Regulations 2013).

Patient engagement was undertaken to inform the service specification requirements used in the tender process by Chorley and South Ribble CCG. At the time of the engagement taking place, the ICB had not been established and therefore the strategy for working with people and communities was not in place.

On 5 July 2022 the ICB's Primary Care Contracting Group (PCCG) decided to commence the public procurement process to award the long-term contract, again in accordance with the ICB's obligations under procurement law

13. What specific benefits will result from this exercise for:

- The ICB
- Local Clinical teams/staff
- Patients of Withnell HC

This information is not held in a recorded format by the ICB. As per the FOI act:

'The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.'

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive