

## ICB Primary Care Commissioning Committee

<b>Date of meeting</b>	14 September 2023
<b>Title of paper</b>	Market Engagement for Withnell Health Centre
<b>Presented by</b>	Donna Roberts Associate Director Primary Care
<b>Author</b>	Yvonne Jones Primary Care Senior Officer
<b>Agenda item</b>	6b
<b>Confidential</b>	No

<b>Executive summary</b>		
<p>Following the 22/23 procurement process for Withnell Health Centre being withdrawn the contract remains with Dr Ann Robinson until 30 September 2024.</p> <p>To ensure continued access to General Medical Services for patients currently registered with Withnell Health Centre, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee is required to decide the best option to secure ongoing service provision.</p> <p>To inform this decision it is proposed that a market engagement exercise is undertaken. To ensure the option decided upon can be carried out within the proposed timeline the request for information will be published in October 2023. This also allows for the finalisation and sign off of the new procurement evaluation strategy (PES) in October 2023.</p>		
<b>Advise, Assure or Alert</b>		
To assure the committee of the process being undertaken in respect of a market engagement exercise (known as a Request for Information – RFI).		
<b>Recommendations</b>		
The committee is asked to approve publication of a request for information in relation to the provision of services to patients registered with Withnell Health Centre.		
<b>Which Strategic Objective/s does the report contribute to</b>		<b>Tick</b>
1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience	X
2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	X
3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	X
4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity	X
5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets	X
6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies	X

<b>Implications</b>				
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Associated risks		X		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			X	
Financial Implications		X		
<b>Where paper has been discussed</b> (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Outcomes</b>	
Not applicable				
<b>Conflicts of interest associated with this report</b>				
Not applicable				
<b>Impact assessments</b>				
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Quality impact assessment completed			X	
Equality impact assessment completed			X	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			X	
<b>Report authorised by:</b>	Craig Harris, Chief of Strategy, Commissioning and Integration			

# ICB Primary Care Commissioning Committee

## 14 September 2023

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### Market Engagement for Withnell Health Centre

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Following the short notice retirement of Dr Siddiqui in December 2021 it was decided that the contract for Withnell Health Centre would be put out for procurement.
- 1.2 A full procurement process for Withnell Health Centre was carried out in 2022 with the support of the North of England Commissioning Support team (NECS).
- 1.3 As part of the process an RFI was published on the NECS e-tendering portal from 25 April to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- 1.4 The original RFI was viewed by 12 organisations who were registered on the e-tendering system. 3 specifically responded to the Withnell Health Centre Alternative Provider Medical Services contract and a further provider was interested but did not have time to complete the RFI.
- 1.5 Based on these responses it was evident that there would be provider interest in the procurement opportunity for Withnell Health Centre.
- 1.6 A full procurement process followed in collaboration with NECS and a recommended bidder was identified.
- 1.7 However, due to patient engagement concerns, the current temporary contract arrangement was extended until 30 September 2024.

#### 2. Current situation

- 2.1 The current contract is due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 2.2 To ensure continued access to General Medical Services for patients currently registered with Withnell Health Centre, the Primary Care Commissioning Committee is required to decide the best option to secure ongoing service provision.
- 2.3 The procurement options available to the ICB are:
  - 2.3.1 Full procurement
  - 2.3.2 Direct award with a voluntary ex-ante transparency notice (VEAT notice)
  - 2.3.3 Direct award without a voluntary ex-ante transparency notice (VEAT notice)

- 2.4 The timelines associated with each option are detailed in appendix 1. For completeness we have considered the impact of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) which will change the requirements for competitive tendering of healthcare services. Whilst the date is not guaranteed, the latest information from NHS England is that the PSR will come into effect by the end of 2023. The new Public Contract Regulations have been confirmed to be delayed to October 2024, however the PSR is expected to be brought into effect earlier, via an amendment to the current Public Contract Regulations.
- 2.5 NHS England guidance is clear that the current procurement regime applies until the PSR comes into effect. The preferred procurement route will be reviewed should the PSR come into effect before the procurement is published.
- 2.6 The contract award criteria for the PES is already broadly aligned to the PSR requirements in terms of award criteria for direct awards or competitive processes. However, a further review and amendment (if required) will be needed to ensure compliance with the PSR process if it is published prior to commencing the re-procurement process.
- 2.7 To support the Primary Care Commissioning Committee, select the most appropriate procurement option it is proposed to undertake a market engagement exercise through the issuing of a request for information.
- 2.8 A request for information was undertaken to inform the original decision to procure the contract for Withnell, but due to the timelapse since the original one it is proposed to undertake a further request to the market.

### **3. Request for information**

- 3.1 The request for information is a form of market engagement which is used to establish the capability and capacity of a market in relation to a specific service, with the findings used to inform the most appropriate procurement option and the development of the service specification / service model.
- 3.2 The request for information will be published on the e-tendering portal and is open to any interested party.
- 3.3 The request for information usually covers key areas such as:
  - Preferred contractual model for delivery of the service
  - Viability and sustainability of the service model
  - Preferred contract length
  - Financial risks associated with the delivery of the service
  - Mobilisation requirements of the service
  - Premises requirements of the service
  - Any barriers to bidding for the service
  - Social Value deliverables of the service.
- 3.4 Following receipt and initial review of the responses, a market analysis and engagement report will be developed to include areas such as:

- An options appraisal of all the procurement options available as outlined in section 2.3
- A detailed analysis of the findings from the RFI, using a number of analytical tools as appropriate to the service
- Risks and issues identified
- Considerations, conclusion and recommendations

3.5 The market analysis and engagement report will be presented to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee in December 2023.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 The committee is requested to:

1. Approve the proposed action to carry out a request for information to support the committee to decide the best option to secure ongoing service provision for the patients registered with Withnell Health Centre.
2. Approve that the detailed request for information is signed off by the Primary Medical Services Group prior to its publication.

Yvonne Jones

30 August 2023

