

Case for Direct Award – Sustainability of the MindEd Programme and The Wellbeing for Education Return project

Health Education England's (HEE) Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) programme has had a partnership with the MindEd Consortium since 2012. Since its launch, the MindEd programme has delivered a series of successful e-learning projects, commissioned by the Department of Health, Department for Education, NHS England and HEE.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) currently acts as host, under the terms of the MindEd Consortium Agreement and provides a place of focus from which the MindEd programme can operate, supporting the programme activities as part of their own organisation. The use of MindEd is growing, with over 70,000 completed in 2019, and 100,000 registered users in Q1, 2020-21.

RCPsych has proven project leadership and established it has the capacity within the current team of professionals to accommodate the delivery of this project for 2020-21. Due to this and the above, RCPsych is the only supplier who can support the MindEd programme for 2020/21. HEE TEL support and fund the governance, operations and sustainability of the programme which is intended to deliver three primary aims:

- Governance of the MindEd Programme
- Administration support for MindEd promotion and operational activity
- Review and update of up to 100 MindEd sessions, dependent upon identified need and availability of review authors.

It is essential for TEL to maintain its current MindEd programmes to build on these foundations and processes to support the development and continuous review of the learning resources and sessions. If the existing supplier cannot continue to provide the current service to HEE, it is believed that the impact on the service will be detrimental for several reasons:

- The MindEd programme would not be supported or continue to develop
- Existing learning resources would not remain accurate and up to date increasing the risk of patient safety
- The necessary skills will not be readily available (at RCPsych) to continue support and develop the MindEd programme
- Another supplier would impact the delivery timescales and cost of the programme

It is envisaged that while the current specifications are underway in 2020, an open procurement process will begin for the Sustainability of MindEd to be start in April 2021 onwards (2-3 years).

Alongside the above, HEE's Mental Health programme has also expressed MindEd (RCPsych) as their chosen provider for The Wellbeing for Education Return project. The Department for Education and DHSC Ministers require this urgent piece of work to equip education professionals to support children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and psychosocial recovery in the context of COVID-19, as they return to schools and colleges from September 2020.

The timescales mean HEE cannot undertake the usual procurement tendering process and wish to direct award to MindEd (RCPsych) on this occasion. HEE believes MindEd are the only suitable supplier who will be able to provide the required standard and outputs to meet the urgent deadline of September 2020.

The piece links closely to the work they have already delivered to develop a COVID-19 resources hub in rapid response to the pandemic. MindEd can work at pace and to the

extremely tight timeframes outlined by DfE and ultimately ministers, but whilst also maintaining the quality of the outputs

- The Wellbeing for Education Return curriculum development requires one organisation to bring together a network of experts across both mental health and education sectors, which MindEd have already demonstrated through their current work across both these sectors
- The current remote working arrangements due to COVID-19 mean that this training programme will need to be developed in a way that is conducive to remote and online delivery. MindEd are experienced in developing content suitable for online and remote consumption, and have the resources to enable this, including a platform to host the finished products.

It is essential for this work to be delivered urgently. If it is not awarded to MindEd it is believed that the impact on the service will be detrimental for a number of reasons:

- A change of supplier would make the deadline of September 2020 unachievable
- HEE's mental health team will not be able to deliver on its mandate deliverable from Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education.