

Case for Direct Award – continued delivery, dissemination and innovation of the SCRIPT eLearning programme:

University of Birmingham are the current suppliers of the HEE SCRIPT e-Learning programme. The university has the proven academic expertise and project leadership to ensure ongoing editorial oversight for this programme. Their team has a proven track record of innovative education delivery and prescribing optimisation research. Since 2009, the team of academics and healthcare professionals have successfully delivered a portfolio of 125 modules, available to healthcare practitioners across the NHS workforce. To our knowledge they are the only providers that can undertake this work.

In order to maintain continuity (until 31 March 2022) it is proposed to retain the current HEI provider to enable HEE to continue to provide high quality learning content in prescribing to health and care staff. The rationale for this decision is to ensure that we are able to fulfill HEE's mandate deliverables (such as working to develop and integrate digital education and learning resources into academic and professional curricula) and actions of the Long Term Plan and People Plan (such as supporting the 5-year action plan for antimicrobial resistance and standardisation of prescribing rights at national level).

Due to the length of the contract (1 year and 8 months), seamless continuity is paramount. If the existing suppliers cannot continue to provide the current service to HEE, it is believed that the impact on the service will be detrimental for a number of reasons:

- Learning resources will not remain accurate and up-to-date, and increase risk of patient safety errors related to prescribing
- If the current suppliers cannot continue, the learning resources will need to be withdrawn to avoid risk to patient safety
- A new supplier will be unable to provide the same level of continuity of service; extra time and resources will be required to get up and running.

During this contract period, HEE believes it is highly unlikely for any other supplier to be up and running as soon as possible, to provide the required standard and content of the SCRIPT programmes provided by the current supplier. From 1st August 2020, the contract will include editorial and authoring costs for the SCRIPT portfolios:

- Ambulance Service
- Dentistry

- Medicine and Surgery
- Nursing
- Paediatrics
- Development, and authoring, of eight Prescriber Ready modules

From March 2021, HEE plan to roll the two existing contracts (Primary Care and WHO variants) into this award.

Throughout 2021/22, HEE will look to review the service and anticipate that this will result in a procurement process.