

Case for Direct Award – continued development, delivery and management of the NW SuppoRTT Regional Training Course.

In 2018 Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS FT developed the regional SuppoRTT in order to upskill HEE North West (NW) doctors returning to training after a prolonged period of absence. Since then, the Trust has continued to develop the programme with trainee attendance increasing.

The supplier has demonstrated its ability to develop and deliver a large scale, high impact training programme for trainees and the clinical faculty.

To maintain programme continuity and to upscale delivery through 3 hub sites across the North West which have been identified, it is proposed we retain the current provider for the next 3 years in order maintain a high level of service provision and support for doctors returning to training. This will enable us to fulfil HEE's mandate and the actions of the NHS Long Term People's Plan by supporting the delivery of excellent healthcare and health improvement to the patients and public of England through ensuring we have enough people with the right skills and experience in the right place at the right time and that staff have the time and support they need to care for patients.

Owing to the complex nature of the programme seamless continuity is essential. If the existing supplier is unable to continue providing the service and lead on rolling out the course across the region then it will be detrimental for the following reasons:

- If current supplier is unable to continue then the programme will need to be withdrawn which will impact on patient care owing to doctors returning to training without necessary support and refreshing of skills.
- A new supplier will be unable to provide the same level of continuity of service without significant additional resource, and time from HEE (NW) SuppoRTT team which will be required in order to get them up and running.
- It is likely that we would have to procure the various elements of the course from individual providers. As this is such a bespoke product designed by experts with years of experience supporting trainees back into training, this would lead to multiple procurement exercises which would inevitably lead to an increase in cost and time. In addition, there would be a period of time when no support is available to trainees; there would be loss of consistency in content delivery with a significant breakdown of relationships between the trainees and course personnel who guide each trainee on their return to training journey.

With the course being unique to the North West region and sub-regional delivery partners established, it is unlikely any other supplier will be able to develop a programme of this nature and scale in a short space of time and to deliver and manage it to the standard provided by the current supplier.

[January 2021]