#  Provision of Commissioning Support for London Continuing Healthcare (CHC) – Providers Pre-Market Engagement

South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SEL CCG) have stated their intention to commission a provider to provide a comprehensive end-to-end commissioning support service to London CCGs to maintain and further develop the London Any Qualified Provider (AQP) for Care Homes. The current draft outline service specification has been published together with this advertisement for further details on the CCG’s requirements.

The AQP is in place to provide a consistent approach for CCGs to manage the market for care home beds providing a price which is fair and equitable, allowing for a more sustainable provision both financially and non-financially including quality of provision.

NHS CHC refers to a package of on-going care that is arranged and funded by the NHS where a person has a “primary health need” - this care takes the form of a care home placement. Individuals are assessed according to their needs (not on their condition or diagnosis) and if eligible the NHS fund all of the health and ‘social care’/personal care costs.

London CCGs use an Any Qualified Provider (AQP) Framework to place individuals eligible for continuing healthcare who have standard Continuing Healthcare needs. The Framework does not cover specialist providers. The Framework has been successful in delivering improvements in quality and achieving savings for standard CHC packages of care. The AQP Framework is supported by an online quality monitoring and capacity management system (CMS).

The CCG is currently developing and testing its draft service requirements, the CCG wishes to request market feedback from potentially interested providers of end-to-end commissioning support services, to inform the upcoming procurement process. The maximum contract term of 4 years (3yrs + 1yr optional extension), the indicative value over a 4 year contract period is (1.6-2.1million)

In order to assist the Authority with testing its assumptions and proposed requirements, the CCG will be publishing a draft service specification together with a feedback questionnaire on the Procontract portal on the 30th April 2021, to give potential bidders an overview of the service specification, ask clarification questions and provide feedback. Once published we would ask that interested providers submit responses to the questionnaire by 5 pm Thursday 20 May 2021 via the messaging facility. To do so, providers should express an interest in the opportunity via the portal and await publication of the questionnaire, interested providers should monitor the messaging facility for further updates.

Questionnaire responses submitted will remain confidential and information gathered will be used for the sole purpose of informing the upcoming procurement process.

Although, this pre-market engagement do not form any part of the formal procurement process, it will inform how the new service is commissioned. Information gained from this exercise will be used to inform the final service specification and expected outcomes from the procurement process.

**Clarification Questions**

Please direct any questions via the ProContract messaging facility. A clarification question and answer process will be operated during this market engagement phase to give interested organisations the opportunity to submit questions to the Authority, where they require clarification on the information provided. Questions should be submitted using the clarification template provided.

NEL intends to publish the anonymised questions and clarifications raised by interested organisations together with responses from the Authority via the portal messaging facility as a public message.

Interested organisations must indicate if a query is of a commercially sensitive or confidential nature – where disclosure of such query and the answer would, or would be likely to, prejudice its commercial interests, respondents must set out the reason(s) for non-disclosure to other organisations.

However, if NEL does not consider the query to be of a commercially sensitive or confidential nature, or considers it to represent a query relevant to all organisations, in terms of both the query and the response, it will, at its sole discretion, retain the right to refuse such a request and inform the requesting organisation of any such decision. The organisation will have the opportunity of revoking the question (leaving it unanswered) or the question and response being published publicly.

**Procurement Timetable (indicative)**

The indicative Procurement Timetable is as follows:

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| Milestones and Key actions | Indicative Dates |
| Expression of Interest and Market Engagement | 20/04/2021 – 20/05/2021 |
| Questionnaire Response Period (ends 5 pm) | 30/04/2021 – 20/05/2021 |
| EoI and MEQ Response Analysis | 21/05/2021 – 31/05/2021 |
| Invitation to Tender (ITT) published (ends 5 pm) | 30/06/2021 - 06/08/2021 |
| ITT Supplier Clarification Question Period (ends 5 pm) | 30/06/2021 - 22/07/2021 |
| Bidders Presentation and Clarification Event (if required) | 01/09/2021 |
| Outcome Letters to Bidders (from) | Late September 2021 |
| Earliest Mobilisation Commencement (incl Contract) | 20/10/ 2021 – 30/11/2021 |
| Contract Commences | 01/12/2021 |