



CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	24 November 2022
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Approval of Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic Assessment Tender
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers, Director of Operations
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Liz Carroll, Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Ar Gyfer Penderfyniad/For Decision

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the outcome of the recent procurement exercise which has been undertaken to address the waiting lists for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnostic Assessments for Adults and Children and Young People (CYP). This is in line with the Directorate's Planning Objective 5G, which includes the transformation of ASD services.

The outsourcing of ASD assessments will bring additional investment to services to strengthen capacity and ensure that the Health Board can comply with the newly implemented legislation on the delivery of autism services.

Cefndir / Background

The Welsh Government (WG) targets for the percentage of CYP waiting less than 26 weeks to start a neurodevelopmental assessment is 80%, while the target for adults waiting less than 26 weeks to start an ASD assessment is also 80%. Both services are consistently in breach of these targets, with average returns of 24%.

As of September 2022, there are 426 CYP out of a total of 2,241 (19%) were waiting less than 26 weeks to start a neurodevelopment assessment for ASD, while 1,815 CYP were waiting more than 26 weeks. There are 1,243 adults waiting less than 26 weeks to start an assessment, with 963 adults waiting more than 26 weeks.

Despite staff vacancies being low, workforce capacity to meet the ongoing increasing demand is inadequate, with referral rates increasing year on year, ranging from an average of 26 referrals per month in 2016 to 87 referrals per month in March 2022 in adult services. Demand within the CYP service remains similarly high. Again, this is compounded by inadequate workforce capacity to meet the increasing demand. The Directorate is funding several fixed term additional posts to address some of these demand and capacity issues.

However due to the significant waiting lists, for Adult and CYP ASD services, the Health Board is unable to agree a realistic trajectory to meet WG targets. Issues with staff recruitment and retention has played a significant role in the lack of capacity within services to meet these targets, which has been further compounded by issues with Estates and IT infrastructure. Despite additional staff being recruited to help tackle the waiting lists, with current resources and in order to comply with NICE best practice guidance, services only have capacity to complete an average of 40 diagnostic assessments per month, which with the current average referral rate of 87 per month means that we are not in a position to agree a trajectory.

In order to implement targeted diagnostic interventions, the Directorate has undertaken an open procurement exercise to purchase services up until 31st March 2025. The contract structure of the tender has allowed for the provision of two providers to ensure maximum impact to address current waiting lists. The contract value is £1,200,000 (January 2023 – March 2025) with providers expected to undertake individual diagnostic assessments of up to 150 adults and 150 children and young people per annum.

Asesiad / Assessment

Tender Process

A competitive open tender exercise (HDD-ITT-51433) was undertaken through the Bravo e-tender Wales system from 30th September 2022 to 21st October 2022. Nine suppliers viewed the tender during this period, with four responses submitted. Four providers did not respond, with one provider declining to respond due to lack of capacity to provide the service at this current time.

Evaluation Process

In order to provide a quantifiable method of evaluating the qualitative aspects of the bids, a set of weighted criteria was produced based on technical and financial information, which is set out in the table below:

Table 1 Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Weighting
Service Delivery	35%
Finance	20%
Management & Staffing	25%
Innovation	5%
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	15%

The evaluation process was facilitated by the Assistant Head of Procurement, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership alongside the Commissioning Manager, Third Sector Services and the Service Delivery Manager, Children & Adults Autism Services.

Responses were evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the Table 1. The finance element was scored on a pro-rata basis with the lowest total cost for the project receiving full marks of 100 points X weighting 20% = 20. The commercial and technical scores outlined in the table below were unanimously agreed by the evaluation panel.

Table 2 Commercial & Technical Scores

Supplier	Technical (Out of 80)	Commercial (Out of 20)	Total (Out of 100)
Provider 1	75.50	16.60	92.10
Provider 2	72.50	18.20	90.70
Provider 3	54.50	18.60	73.10
Provider 4	30.00	20.00	50.00

In line with the scores set out above the evaluation panel recommends that contracts are awarded to Provider 1 & Provider 2. Both providers have confirmed that they have capacity to meet the contract requirements throughout the duration of the contract and will be allocated an equal share of the total funding available.

Next Steps

Following approval to proceed with the contract award, a call off agreement will be executed to enable services to commence in January 2023.

In line with Health Board guidance service providers will adhere to NICE Guidelines, General Principles of Care and current WG legislation. Providers will offer a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnostic assessment, using flexible approaches to service delivery such as face-to-face and digital options to meet the needs of service users, which will minimise the length of time taken from referral to diagnosis.

All referrals will be screened by a clinician to determine that they meet the threshold for diagnostic assessment. Service providers will confirm the outcome of the assessment with the Health Board through a dedicated feedback/outcome session.

Services will be contract monitored by the Service Transformation & Partnerships Team in conjunction with clinical leads, Finance Business Partners and Procurement Business Partners. The Providers will produce quarterly performance monitoring reports evidencing that agreed targets, objectives and outcomes are being achieved. Service delivery capacity will be reviewed monthly to ensure that we are maximising resources to improve waiting lists.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- **APPROVE** the award of contracts to Provider 1 & Provider 2 to provide services from 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2025, for onwards submission to Welsh Government for approval.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)
Objectives: (must be completed)

Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a
 Sgôr Cyfredol:

All risks managed through the MHLD Risk Register apply.

Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	6. Individual Care 5. Timely Care 5.1 Timely Access 6.1 Planning Care to Promote Independence
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	1. Putting people at the heart of everything we do 2. Working together to be the best we can be 3. Striving to deliver and develop excellent services 4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2018-2019	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS 4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives 8. Transform our communities through collaboration with people, communities and partners

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019 - 2022 • Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 • Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan 2016 • Autism Spectrum Disorder Delivery Plan 2016-2020 • Together for Children and Young People Framework
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the body of the report.
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	Business Planning, Performance & Assurance Group Quality, Safety and Experience Group Mental Health Legislation Assurance Committee CHC Planning Committee CHC Executive Committee Local Mental Health Partnership Board

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not applicable.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Not applicable.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Not applicable.
Risg: Risk:	Risk Registers are maintained and managed as part of the project management processes for all areas of service change. Red rated individual risks are escalated to the Directorate's Risk Register when appropriate.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not applicable.

Enw Da: Reputational:	Not applicable.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not applicable.
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Full EQIA's have been undertaken for all policy and service change initiatives across the Directorate.