

# North Essex Learning Disability Services



## Background

West Essex PCT led a programme of re-definition, modernisation and rationalisation of a wide range of specialist Learning Disability services in North Essex on behalf of all North Essex PCTs (West, Mid and North East Essex). The aspiration was to work towards the achievement of full inclusion of learning disabled people in the mainstream health care system to reduce health inequalities and to ensure high-quality specialist health services where these were needed.

## Role of the Collaborative Procurement Hub

The East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub was commissioned to help the Programme Lead develop and implement an appropriate procurement strategy to support the overall programme aims.

The desired services were described in a high level, outcomes-based specification which was put to the market through a competitive tender process managed by the Hub. A key feature of this procurement was to encourage innovation, interested bidders were asked to illustrate their understanding of the need for change, as well as their ability to implement and achieve organisational change.

The evaluation of tenders was overseen by the Hub to ensure proposals were treated in a fair and equitable manner and enabling the joint commissioning parties to have equal status within the decision making process.

## Outcomes

The proposal submitted by the selected bidder demonstrated the optimum combination of service capability, quality, risk and cost, and the successful organisation worked closely with the Programme Lead to implement the new service from April 2010. It is expected that the new service will deliver significant savings for the three PCT's during the life of the agreement as well as improving performance.

Stephen Thumpston, Associate Director – Learning Disabilities Commissioning, NHS West Essex, said: “The Hub provided the Commissioners with unambiguous and impartial procurement advice and guidance from start to finish and ensured full compliance with Due Process. On a practical level, the Hub offered timely and responsive support on administration and project management. Overall, the West Essex Learning Disability Commissioners consider that the Hub has offered value for money and invaluable assistance in achieving the envisaged outcomes of the tender project”.

## For further information contact

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