

57935

Number 6 One Stop Shop

Commissioning and Contracting Rationale Please provide all records of deliberation, advice, and financial rationale for the decision to contract a diagnostic pathway primarily delivered by non-clinically registered staff, specifically including: The final signed contract, including all Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Quality Assurance Schedules. The governance structure documentation detailing the clinical oversight provided by the EIJB or NHS Lothian to Number 6. Any internal or external legal advice sought regarding the commissioning decision.

It should be noted that this was an EIJB grant funded initiative and not a commissioned contract in which a gap in service delivery had been identified but one which encouraged providers to suggest ideas on ways to improve services or outcomes for people. The prospectus for the EIJB Grant Programme 2019-22 provides details about the purpose of the grant programme and the funding criteria.

In summary, the Autism Initiatives project was a collaborative project working with Mental Health Teams and GP services. The aim of this project was to provide an innovative and exemplary pathway where Social Care, NHS and the voluntary sector work in partnership.

The EIJB Committee report relating to the funding of Autism Initiatives can be found in the following report: Recommendations from the Health and Social Care Grants Review Programme 2019 Edinburgh Integration Joint Board 14th December 2018,

[\\$item 52 - recommendations from the health and social care grants review programme 2019.xls.pdf](#)

Autism Initiatives was funded to provide the following:

Diagnosis and support for autistic adults without a learning disability by assisting Mental Health Teams (MHTs), the Lothian Adult ADHD and Autism Resource Team (LAAART) in Edinburgh. This was to be achieved through 3 streams:

- Gathering pre-diagnostic information for 80 individuals per year to support MHTs in their assessments of autism
- Diagnostic assessment of those seeking an autism diagnosis who are not functionally impaired and had been referred by the MHTs. 30 individuals per year would benefit from this provision.
- Enhanced post diagnostic support for 80 individuals per year.

[Application Assessment Process](#)

Application Assessment Score: 325 (assessment score range was from 370 highest to 85 lowest)

Comments from assessment: A very focused application requesting funding for 2 senior practitioner posts to meet demand for those adults who have not been diagnosed. Only weak area is around lack of context in terms of expected numbers in Scotland drilling down to numbers expected in an Edinburgh context. A very technical application with good evidence, research and evaluation.

Documents in scope

Document 1 - Prospectus for EIJB Grant Programme 2019-22

Document 2 - Application form 2019-22

Document 3 - Letter of Award 2019-22

Document 4 - Funding Agreement 2019-20

Clinical Standards and Due Diligence Please provide all documents demonstrating how the EIJB verified compliance with national clinical standards during the commissioning phase: Evidence submitted by Autism Initiatives UK to the EIJB/EHSCP demonstrating that the diagnostic pathway met, or was expected to meet, the requirements of SIGN 145 (Assessment, diagnosis and interventions for autism) and NICE guidance at the time of commissioning. Any risk assessment report or internal review that addressed the potential clinical risks associated with deviating from established national guidelines.

The Autism Initiatives project was a collaborative project working with Mental Health Teams and GP services. The aim of this project was to provide an innovative and exemplary pathway where Social Care, NHS and the voluntary sector work in partnership.

The 2 Senior Autism Practitioners posts supported by the EIJB grant programme were to be trained in the use of two diagnostic tools recommended by SIGN 145 – ADOS and ADI-R and used by MHTs in their diagnoses, ensuring all diagnoses had parity.

Referrals to Autism Initiatives for onward assessment were made through the Mental Health Teams and based on their clinical competence and screening processes.

Oversight and Risk Management Records Please provide full and unredacted minutes, reports, and correspondence records from the following: All EIJB Board meetings where the Number 6 contract, performance, or termination was discussed. All Audit and Risk Committee meetings where the Number 6 contract was listed on the agenda or discussed as a potential risk. Any records detailing clinical governance arrangements and accountability lines between the EIJB and the provider's staff.

All EIJB papers and Audit and Risk papers are public documents and are available online.

Personnel and Registration Verification Please provide the specific due diligence documentation used by the EIJB/EHSCP to confirm: The professional registration (e.g., GMC, NMC, HCPC) of the staff members delivering the diagnostic assessments. The process by which the EIJB confirmed the clinical competence and qualifications of the Number 6 assessment team prior to awarding the contract.

Referrals to Autism Initiatives for onward assessment were made through the Mental Health Teams and based on their clinical competence of the service being delivered by Autism Initiatives.

Termination Decision Records Please provide all documents related to the decision to terminate the diagnostic service, including: The specific grounds upon which the termination decision was made. Any internal review or post-event analysis carried out by the EIJB regarding the quality of assessments conducted under the contract.

A directive from NHS Lothian was issued that instructed onward referral to No.6 via the use of opt-in was to be suspended immediately due to concerns around compliance with correct patient pathway standards and waiting list governance.

On notification of this directive, Autism Initiatives was instructed to suspend carrying out any further ASD assessments due to concerns around compliance with correct patient pathway standards.

Document provided:

Document 5 - Email