

Oldham Community Testing Programme - Summary

Overview of the tender

Since the 18th January 2021 Oldham has been delivering a targeted community testing programme, based on the national Community Testing programme utilising the lateral flow tests. The government has stated that this programme is to run to the 31st March 2021, but there is every indication that there will be a requirement to deliver this for the longer term.

The proposal is to set up a new sustainable model which comprises a multisite model giving equity and good accessibility across Oldham borough to individuals who require an asymptomatic test. Target individuals will be required to self-test twice a week, the first of which will be people who cannot work from home e.g. key workers. This may change/expand as lockdown requirements ease to other targeted cohorts e.g., specific at-risk communities. The initial proposal is for pharmacies to bid for a 12-month contract with an option to extend for a further 12 months. It is estimated the current target cohort is 17,000 individuals.

Service Model

- The individual attends the site & requests asymptomatic test (no requirement for pharmacy team to check eligibility)
- Pharmacies can offer a walk in or appointment-based model or a mixture which they will need to define in their response
- The pharmacy team will conduct an introductory conversation around symptoms, with a possibility of a temperature check
- The individual registers on the website supported by the pharmacy team, providing both a phone number and email address
- The individual self-swabs their nose and throat, the swabs are then added to a liquid and 'swished' around and put into the test device. Support may be required from the pharmacy team.
- The individual leaves the site and the results are interpreted by the pharmacy team (est. 30 mins turnaround) and uploaded to a national portal
- The national portal then contacts the individual by text/email with their results – Individuals are required to self-test twice a week
- Pharmacy teams must record activity

Service Fees & Consumables

Contractors will be offered a fee of £10 per completed test.

Each lateral flow test provided by GMDHSC arrives with a ratio of PPE which can be shared with the provider.

Tests are held in a central location and providers will have a choice on whether to have these delivered or to collect them.

Training

Oldham Council will offer training that encompasses the end-to-end process of lateral flow testing including how to self-swab and analyse results etc.

The training will be provided virtually (recorded) with a potential for further on-site training – to be confirmed. Phone-based advice will be available following the initial training.

Tendering Process & How to Access the Opportunity

Details of the tender can be found on The Chest - <https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

You must be registered on The Chest to access and submit the application documents, if you have not previously registered, contractors can set up as a new supplier at <https://procontract.due-north.com/>.

The tender framework being adopted is a 'Dynamic Purchasing System' which means the commissioner can accept multiple providers and can extend the provision period flexibly without going back out to tender.

Timelines

The timescales are tight with a 15 day turn around. Please note, late submissions will **not** be accepted

- Monday 15th February - Tender documents will be uploaded to The Chest
- Monday 15th February – Wednesday 3rd March - Opportunity for clarifications to be raised via The Chest
- Wednesday 3rd March 12pm - Deadline for submission
- Wednesday 3rd March – Wednesday 10th March - Tenders evaluation
- Monday 15th March – Wednesday 31st March - Contract implementation
- Thursday 1st April - New contract commences