

PART 2 TENDER SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION

1. TITLE

Development and Delivery of a BSc Programme leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a paramedic with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

2. BACKGROUND

In March 2018, following extensive discussions with professional bodies and employers; and after a full public consultation, the HCPC announced that with effect from September 2021, threshold entry to the register for paramedics would be set at BSc (Hons) level. This change had been long anticipated in response to the Paramedic Education Evaluation Project report (2013) which reported on the level and content of the curriculum in response to the ever-expanding role of the paramedic in managing a more diverse and complex patient population, within an already stretched health and social care system.

Following further discussions with the HCPC on March 11th 2019 it was acknowledged that the recommendation for the threshold entry level approved by the HCPC Council stated the award could either be at SCQF level 9 or 10, and therefore it would be acceptable for a Scottish Ordinary Degree to meet Standards of Education and Training 1. This tender is therefore now offered on the basis of a 3-year ordinary degree.

The aim of the programme is to provide students with the necessary skills and competencies to deliver out of hospital care, in a range of health settings, as a member of an integrated health and social care team. As the primary employer in Scotland, there is a requirement to establish a close working relationship between the provider and the Scottish Ambulance Service, to ensure that graduates are not only fit for practice on graduation, but also fit for employment.

The programme must prepare students to be proficient to undertake the full scope of practice for a paramedic leading to eligibility for them to apply for registration with the HCPC.

To achieve this the programme must meet the requirements of the HCPCs Standards of Education and Training (2017), Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics (2014) and Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics (2016). This programme must also be developed in accordance with the College of Paramedics (COP) Curriculum Guidance 4th ed. (2017) and reference to the QAA subject benchmark statements for Paramedic Science (2016) to ensure consistency across programmes.

Funding for this programme has not yet been confirmed by Scottish Government and therefore it should be noted that this contract will not be awarded until the Funding arrangements have been finalised.

3. SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

Development and Delivery of a BSc Paramedic Science Programme.

Discussions are currently ongoing between Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council as to the final funding for the programme. It is expected that the funding for course fees will be based on the current Scottish Funding Council Level 4 tariff (Currently £7,387 per student/per annum). There are no set up or development costs available, but the tender will be awarded based on a commitment to both a minimum student number and a minimum 5-year initial contract period.

The following lots are available:

Lot 1 – Grampian

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 20
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 30

Lot 2 – Highlands and Islands

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 20
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 30

Lot 3 - Tayside/Fife and Forth Valley

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 39
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 60

Lot 4 - Borders/Edinburgh and Lothian

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 39
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 60

Lot 5 – Glasgow

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 39
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 60

Lot 6 – Ayrshire and Arran/Dumfries and Galloway/Lanarkshire

Minimum Intake Per Annum: 39
Maximum Intake Per Annum: 60

Individual suppliers may bid for individual lots or a combination of lots. However, it is a requirement that any supplier bidding for a lot within a specific geographical location will have the required educational infrastructure to provide the programme in that location. Of particular interest will be programmes that utilise innovative technology to

enable students in remote and rural locations to participate fully in programmes whilst remaining within their home locations. Suppliers must be able to demonstrate the availability of non-ambulance placements within the geographical location bid for and established placement relationships across health and social care.

The successful supplier(s) will also be required to demonstrate arrangements with local colleges to enable widening participation through access programmes. In addition, there is a requirement to confirm the eligibility of current technician staff to obtain recognition of their current qualification and experience, and therefore enter the programme directly into year 2.

NES shall not restrict the successful supplier(s) to taking on additional students who are not part of the final tender. However, this would require approval from the Scottish Ambulance Service and other practice education providers (Health Boards, Social Care Partners etc) to ensure the quality and availability of placement provision.

3.1 Programme structure

The programme must meet the HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2017). The College of Paramedics curriculum identifies theory and the practice elements to be undertaken in a practice education environment and it is anticipated that over the 3-year period this will be in the region of 2,250 hours per student with a 50% split between ambulance placement and non-ambulance placement. These placements will follow the College of Paramedics curriculum guidance (2017). Placements may take place in a range of health and social care settings across Scotland, and equity of access should therefore be considered for all students. It is also preferable to ensure that there is a universal Practice Assessment Document used across programmes and therefore a collaborative approach for successful suppliers will be required.

The potential successful supplier must apply for approval from the HCPC to deliver the programme and must allow sufficient time for this process to successfully conclude. The HCPC have advised that they will provide provisional approval dates to suppliers wishing to submit a tender. **It is therefore a requirement of the tender submission that you confirm a provisional approval visit date has been secured.**

Due to the timescales it is recognised that recruitment of students may need to commence on the proviso that the programme is subject to approval.

The recruitment process for students will be through UCAS.

An option for partnership working with a college in the development of an Access to HE courses in support of recruitment may be considered.

3.2 Deliverables by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS)

Although NHS Education for Scotland (NES) will be identified as the lead NHS Board for the contract management of this collaboration, The Scottish Ambulance Service Board shall:

- Appoint a Practice Education Lead (PEL) to work with each successful supplier across a geographical area. This post-holder will be an employee of SAS. The PEL will work in partnership with practice placement educators within each health board to achieve programme outcomes.
- Identify practice placement educators to support students in ambulance practice. This will be in line with the guidelines from the College of Paramedics.
- support the development and delivery of a BSc Paramedic Science programme across Scotland.
- work in collaboration with health boards within their region, other regions and named provider(s), ensuring the quality and consistency of the programme across Scotland
- Named Practice Education Leads within the SAS shall:
 - Lead, develop and deliver appropriate education for paramedics across regions of Scotland, and contribute as part of the national programme for paramedic training across Scotland working in partnership with Higher Education Institutions.
 - Contribute to strategic issues e.g. coordination of the programme nationally and responding to issues that may occur, participation in regional and national committees relating to paramedic education.
 - Lead, create and promote inter-professional education solutions both internally within the organisation and externally with affiliated/associated organisations to ensure on-going collaborative working. This is in addition to delivery of flexible paramedic education solutions to meet the changing service demands within a range of diverse specialties across their region.
 - Lead and develop the maintenance and efficacy of clinical learning environments and provide teaching and learning for student paramedics through a wide range of methods and media to facilitate lifelong learning linked to KSF dimensions and in accordance with PDPs. Act as a regional paramedic representative on appropriate university committees/groups and give expert professional advice on clinical curriculum content, for example paramedic clinical competencies required to comply with professional regulation.
 - Develop briefs, reports, background papers, update reports and other materials as appropriate for the paramedic programme.

3.3 Deliverables by the successful supplier

- The successful supplier(s) is/are expected to develop, design and collaboratively (between NES, Scottish Ambulance Service, Health Boards, Social and Third Sector providers) deliver a taught annual rolling programme for a cohort of students, across Scotland. This should include a variety of learning approaches, including an e-learning platform to maximize engagement from all geographical locations.

- The successful supplier(s) will prepare practice placement educators for their role with a robust framework in line with standards and guidelines.
- The successful supplier will be able to access simulation facilities to enhance the learning experience
- The successful supplier(s) will work in partnership with the placement education providers to ensure the programme meets the requirements of the HCPCs Standards of Education and Training (2017), Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics (2014) and Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics (2016) to enable students to be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC. This programme must be developed with reference to the QAA subject benchmark statements for Paramedic Science Practice (2016).
- The named successful supplier(s) will be responsible for developing the programme and ensure validation with HCPC. The development of the programme would be in collaboration with NES, Scottish Ambulance Service and other placement providers (Health Boards, Social Care, Third Sector).
- The named successful supplier(s) will be responsible for providing maintenance of the academic quality of the programme. Whilst the regional leads would be responsible for participating in programme monitoring and internal monitoring as per the named universities quality assurance procedures.
- The successful supplier(s) would be expected to foster close working relationships with each regional lead.
- The successful supplier will be responsible for providing student support – for example learning profiles, assessments, academic conduct, disability conduct;
- The successful supplier will be responsible for providing administration – modular/programme panel, progression panel, student records, admissions, induction and online learning platform;

4. ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

The anticipated benefits derived from the development of a programme for delivery in Scotland is to ensure graduates are eligible to apply to the Health and Care Professions Council for registration as a paramedic following changes to the threshold entry level from September 2021.

Individual students:

- Competence to operate to the full scope of practice for a paramedic.
- Transferable graduate attributes.
- Awareness of diverse socio-economic, geographical, and demographical requirements of health and social care within Scotland.
- Application of theory to practice through a range of practice learning opportunities appropriate to the multidimensional paramedic role.
- Preparation for registration with the HCPC.
- Access to employment within health care.

Successful Supplier(s):

- Increased collaborative relationships between HE providers and NHS employers.

- Potential opportunity to provide delivery of flexible collaborative programmes in Scotland.
- Enhancing team work – working collaboratively with the development and delivery of a full time undergraduate programme.
- To be at the forefront of the delivery of a cohesive national strategy for the development of paramedic education as a key enabler of transforming Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professional roles and underpinning the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan.

The organisation (SAS):

- Compliance with regulatory changes within the workforce and capacity to meet workforce development, including new and emerging roles.
- Increased capability to deliver quality care at home or in a homely environment, including (where appropriate), non-conveyance and referral.
- Increased awareness of where the barriers and potential barriers to career progression exist for paramedics and the potential solutions to remove them.
- Enhanced reputation as an employer that recognises the potential challenges for health and social care services and provides appropriate support.

4. MONITORING

The overall accountability, leadership and delivery of the development programme for supporting a pathway for paramedic training will be through the SAS Assistant Head of Education and named PELs (SAS) and the successful supplier(s). The programme will adhere to the quality assurance processes within the winning supplier(s) and an annual programme report will be sent to the Scottish Ambulance Service. This report will support a quality assurance function and reflect on ways in which the programme might be enhanced in future years.

5. TIMESCALES FOR COMPLETION OF OBJECTIVES

It is anticipated that the collaboration between the successful supplier(s) and the Scottish Ambulance Service aims to support the programme over a 5-year period.

The Following timetable is anticipated from the start of the contract with the successful supplier:

Milestone	Number of months into contract
Development meeting with SAS	1
Draft curriculum submission document for review and HCPC approval request in place	4
HCPC approval	9
Recruitment to Programme (1 st Year)	3

It is anticipated that there will be monthly organised meetings during the life of the setup phase of this contract with the project team and suppliers.

6. REFERENCES FOR BACKGROUND READING

Buckingham University Paramedic Education Evaluation Project Report (2013), <https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk/downloads/PEEP-Report.pdf>

College of Paramedics Paramedic Curriculum Guidance Handbook 4th Edition (2017), <https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk/publications/professional-standards>

HCPC Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics (2016), <http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004EDFStandardsofconduct,performanceandethics.pdf>

HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2017), http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10000BCF46345Educ-Train-SOPA5_v2.pdf

HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics (2014), http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/1000051CStandards_of_Proficiency_Paramedics.pdf

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, benchmark statement: Health care programmes, paramedic science (2016), https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-paramedics-16.pdf?sfvrsn=9594f781_12

Scottish Government Health and Social Care Delivery Plan (2016), <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511950.pdf>