**North West Flexible Purchasing System for**

**SEND – Bulletin 1 (November 2019)**

**Providers**

This is the first of a series of regular bulletins, which will be emailed to providers, to keep you up to date with the development of the North West SEND Purchasing System.

***Background***

Cheshire East Council has agreed to lead on the development and subsequent procurement of a purchasing system with the support of Placements North West.

This relates to placements for children and young people up to the age of 25 that have an education, health and care plan (ECHP) with:

* + Independent and non-maintained special schools; and
	+ Special Post-16 Institutions

The types of service under consideration for inclusion in the purchasing system are: -

* + Day placements
	+ 38 and 52 week residential placements
	+ Transport
	+ Innovative services (this may potentially include short breaks provision, home tuition, and wrap around services; i.e. before and after school provision)

The aim is to establish a regional SEND FPS which will provide consistent quality standards, streamline processes, improve communication and encourage innovation.

***Expressions of interest***

We are asking all providers that are interested in joining the SEND FPS to submit an expression of interest on The Chest Procurement Portal:

Link: [https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=5a58bc66-4bca-e911-80f8-005056b64545](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3Y54GMdxKKXJGPLkgoJWgee6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fprocontract.due-north.com%2FAdvert%3FadvertId%3D5a58bc66-4bca-e911-80f8-005056b64545)

Opportunity ID: DN432512

***Engagement***

In addition to providers, we are also working with the following groups / organisations to develop the SEND FPS:

* parent carers and parent carer forums
* Young people and children
* SEND teams in local authorities
* Commissioning teams in local authorities

We are planning more surveys and workshops over the coming months, including a provider survey in December.

***Timescales***

We are working to the following timescales:

* **Mid Jan 2020**: service specification finalised
* **Late Jan – March / April 2020**: providers submit tenders to join SEND FPS
* **March /April 2020**: tender closes
* **April/ May 2020**: contracts awarded and SEND FPS goes live

***Want to know more?***

Contact nicola.hine@bolton.gov.uk