**Expression of Interest**

**North West SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Flexible Purchasing System**

On behalf of the 23 Local Authorities in the North West, Cheshire East Council, with the support of Placements Northwest, are considering establishing a Flexible Purchasing System for the commissioning of SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) placements for children and young people for the North West region.

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 flexible purchasing system which will provide consistent quality standards, streamline processes, improve communication and encourage innovation.

The intention is for the SEND FPS to be established in time to support placement sourcing for the beginning of the 2020 academic year.

We want to work with potential providers to co-design the framework. **Please can you let us know if your organisation would consider joining a purchasing system, and whether you would want to be part of forums / workshops to support the development of a purchasing system? If yes, please can you provide brief details about your organisation (name, location, size, contact details)?**

**If no, it would be helpful for us to know your rationale for not joining. If you are happy to discuss this, please provide your contact details. In addition, if you would like a further discussion regarding the process, please let us know.**

Please send your responses by Friday 15 November 2019. Please respond directly to Nicola Hine (Commissioning Officer, Placements Northwest) nicola.hine@bolton.gov.uk and Mark Hughes (Senior Commissioning Manager, Cheshire East Council) Mark.Hughes@cheshireeast.gov.uk