**006050 – Provision of Independent Fostering Services - Provider Event**

A Provider Event is to be held on 18 December 2017 for Providers of Independent Fostering Services. We are embarking on a joint Commissioning exercise to review current arrangements across the North East region. The process will be jointly led by Newcastle City Council (lead authority for the North of the region) and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (lead authority for the South of the region), to explore options for future contracting arrangements.

Since the creation of existing arrangements in the North of the region, the Public Contract Regulations (PCR’s) have been amended which gives us greater flexibility to create bespoke solutions for these types of services. The North East Collaborative will be taking full advantage of this flexibility in the PCR’s to identify the most appropriate and ‘fit for purpose’ solution to put in place from 2019 onwards when the existing arrangements in the North of our region ends.

At the same time we will be exploring the possibility of combining our two current regional solutions into one arrangement as a part of a longer-term approach.

Group discussions will take place to explore with Providers:

1. What works well currently in the North and the South of the region?
2. What could be improved in the North and the South of the region?
3. The possibility of a single solution for the North East region?
4. Identified gaps?
5. Potential Lotting Structure
6. Potential Additional Services Menu

The Provider Event will be held on 18 December 2017 at The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham, DH1 1TN, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Please confirm your attendance by email to:

Emma Bass

Commissioning and Procurement Officer

IFA Single Point of Contact

Newcastle City Council

emma.bass@newcastle.gov.uk

0191 211 5195

Please ensure you provide Emma with **all** of the following information:

1. Name of attendees
2. Role of attendees
3. Email and phone number for attendees
4. Organisation attendees will be representing
5. Setting attendees will be representing