**North West Flexible Purchasing System for**

**SEND – Bulletin 2 (May 2020)**

This is the second provider bulletin 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

In the future there is provision to develop further lots to allow for innovation.

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

**Update on Timescales**

It was the intention to have the tender on The Chest in March / April 2020. However, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both providers and local authorities, work has been significantly delayed.

We will now be working to the following timescales:

* **June/ July 2020**: service specification finalised
* **September 2020**: providers submit tenders to join SEND FPS
* **October 2020**: tender closes
* **November 2020**: contracts awarded and SEND FPS goes live

Please note, due to the ever changing situation, the timeline may move again. However, if this happens we will communicate this to you.

**Want to know more?**

Contact [nicola.hine@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.hine@bolton.gov.uk)