



**Wigan**<sup>♥</sup>  
**Council**

Please provide the following information regarding the commissioning of placements for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS):

1. Procurement Mechanism: Does the Council commission these placements via a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), a Framework Agreement, or purely via Spot Purchasing?

Wigan Council does not operate a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) or a Framework Agreement specifically for placements in Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS).

However, Wigan Council does participate in the regional North West Flexible Purchasing System (FPS), which is a collaborative arrangement used across the North West for certain SEND-related commissioned services. This regional FPS is designed to enable local authorities to access quality-assured providers through a shared contractual structure.

The FPS is not a framework for school placements, but rather a flexible regional procurement system for SEND-related services (e.g., alternative provision or specialist support). It therefore does not replace spot purchasing for INMSS educational placements.

2. Access: If a DPS or Framework is in place, please provide the name of the portal used (e.g., ProContract, Adam, SProc.net), the website link for that portal, and the reference number for the contract.

Not applicable.

3. Spot Purchasing: If the Council utilizes "Spot Purchasing" for individual placements, please provide a copy of the "Pre-Placement Quality Assurance" criteria or "Vendor Onboarding" documents required for a new school to be set up as a supplier, and contact details of those responsible.

#### **A. Pre-Placement Quality Assurance**

Independent providers must supply evidence such as:

- Ofsted registration, reports, and safeguarding compliance
- Curriculum and therapeutic offer
- Staffing, safer recruitment, and governance information
- Policies relating to health & safety, data protection, safeguarding, and behaviour
- Financial viability and pricing information

The North West FPS sets out similar requirements for alternative provision providers, including criteria such as Ofsted status, insurance, finance checks, and safeguarding documentation. [\[nwadcs.org.uk\]](http://nwadcs.org.uk)

#### **b. Supplier Onboarding**

New providers must also complete the Council's corporate supplier-setup process, including:

- Legal and financial verification
- Insurance evidence
- Banking and organisational information

4. Sufficiency Strategy: Please provide a link to the Council's most recent "Market Position Statement" or "SEND Sufficiency Strategy" outlining future commissioning intentions.

Not published, as requires ratification from the Council's SLT. Please see attached for information about commissioning intentions:

[SEND - Useful information](#)