**Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the Provision of Fostering Placements and Specialist Placements as an Alternative to Residential Care (SPARC)**

**Open Call for New Applicants**

Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council wish to receive applications to join our collaborative Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the provision of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements and Specialist Placements as an Alternative to Residential Care (SPARC).

The DPS is split into the two (2) lots as described below;

Lot 1: General Fostering Placements (this will comprise both standard and enhanced placements); and

Lot 2: Specialist Placements as an Alternative to Residential Care (SPARC)

***Title:***

Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the Provision of Fostering Placements and Specialist Placements as an Alternative to Residential Care (SPARC)

***Our Ref No****:*

BBC552066

***Description:***

The three Partnering Councils’ aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to achieve and maintain a healthy and emotionally balanced life. The Councils have statutory duties and responsibilities concerning the accommodation and care of children to ensure that they are placed in an environment likely to promote and safeguard their welfare and development. They should feel and be kept safe and have their voice heard.

The Service to be provided is Foster Care for Children and Young People placed with the Independent Fostering Agency and after the Child/Young Persons’ assessment by the Council’s Social Services Teams.

The Service will also provide when needed the ability to offer any required placements which fall under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). The 3 Councils would expect PACE placements to be within or near to the Bedfordshire Area.

***Purpose of event:***

The purpose of this event is to engage with providers who currently sit outside of the DPS, it is our intention to hold annual events to continually engage with the market and seek new providers to join.

This event will also enable the Partnering Councils to provide potential providers with detailed information on the requirement and the opportunity to partner with us. Furthermore there will be a presentation on the key provisions of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and how these will impact on the procurement process and the key advantages of this type of procurement to a market such as this.

The event will also provide an opportunity for providers to meet the lead commissioners at each Local Authority.

***Time and Location of event:***

The Provider Forum Event will be held on **Wednesday 14th November 9.30am to 12.00pm** at the Council‘s offices; Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

It should be noted that there was significant interest in this requirement the last time a provider event was held; as a result attendance will be restricted to 2 representatives per supplier. We would encourage that the most senior responsible officers from your organisation are put forward to attend the event.

To register your interest or book a place at the Event, please contact James Gatawa on 01234 276626 (Ext 44626), or email [james.gatawa@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:james.gatawa@bedford.gov.uk) by no later than **Thursday 1st November 2018. Limit to max 2 persons from each interested organisation.**

Please notify us if you are unable to attend the market engagement session. We will be happy to send you information following the event and detail on the procurement process if required.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Partnership Authorities

(Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council)