

Lancashire County Council – Scoping Exercise

Lancashire County Council is conducting a **scoping exercise** to identify **Independent and Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) providers** who can support children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) requiring specialist placements.

We have a **significant and growing demand** for placements now and forecasted through to **2032**, across a range of needs, including:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
- Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties
- Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
- Physical Disabilities and other complex needs

Age Range: Early Years through to Post-16

Geographical Coverage: Lancashire and surrounding areas

Current Demand

- Significant demand in **primary and early secondary phases**, with ongoing growth in **post-16**

Forecasted Demand Until 2032

- Sustained growth in ASD and SEMH needs
- Increased complexity requiring specialist therapeutic support
- Rising demand for flexible and bespoke packages
- Continued pressure on primary and secondary phases, with expansion into post-16 and preparation for adulthood pathways

What We Are Looking For

- Immediate and planned capacity for **day placements**
- Ability to meet complex SEND needs
- Flexible and creative approaches to support inclusion
- Innovation and partnership working
- Potential for block purchase arrangements to secure multiple placements under agreed terms

Information Requested

- Available capacity and location
- Plans for your business growth and ability to create new settings in Lancashire
- Indicative timescales for placement availability

- Costings for day placements and any additional support services
- Discount structure for volume placements (we anticipate negotiating reduced rates for multiple placements)
- Any additional services offered (e.g., outreach, interim packages)
- **Please confirm if you are currently registered on the SEND Flexible Purchasing System (FPS)**

Next Steps

If you have capacity now or in the future, please respond via the mailbox with the above details:

INMSS.Placements@lancashire.gov.uk