

**Independent Critical Friend Service**

**NEPO Portal ProContract Ref No: DN 696224**

The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) is seeking to work with suitably qualified and experienced individuals who can offer advice on multi-agency practice and service delivery across the whole safeguarding system, in the role of an ‘Independent Critical Friend’.

Suppliers interested in providing the services are required to answer all the questions in Section 3, 4 and 5 of the application form, which is available via the NEPO portal (DN696224) and submit these completed sections to:

ChildrensCommissioning@hartlepool.gov.uk

The sooner your application is submitted the sooner it can be evaluated and if successful, the sooner you will be on the Select List.

It is envisaged that the Select List will be operational from 1st Nov 2023 for an initial period of up to 4 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years subject to performance and funding.

Application onto the Select List will also remain open until 31st Oct 2027, when it will be reviewed.

If you have any questions please send them to:

ChildrensCommissioning@hartlepool.gov.uk

For guidance notes on how to register onto the NEPO Portal please follow link below: -

<https://procontract.due-north.com/SupplierRegistration/Register>