

UKUPC

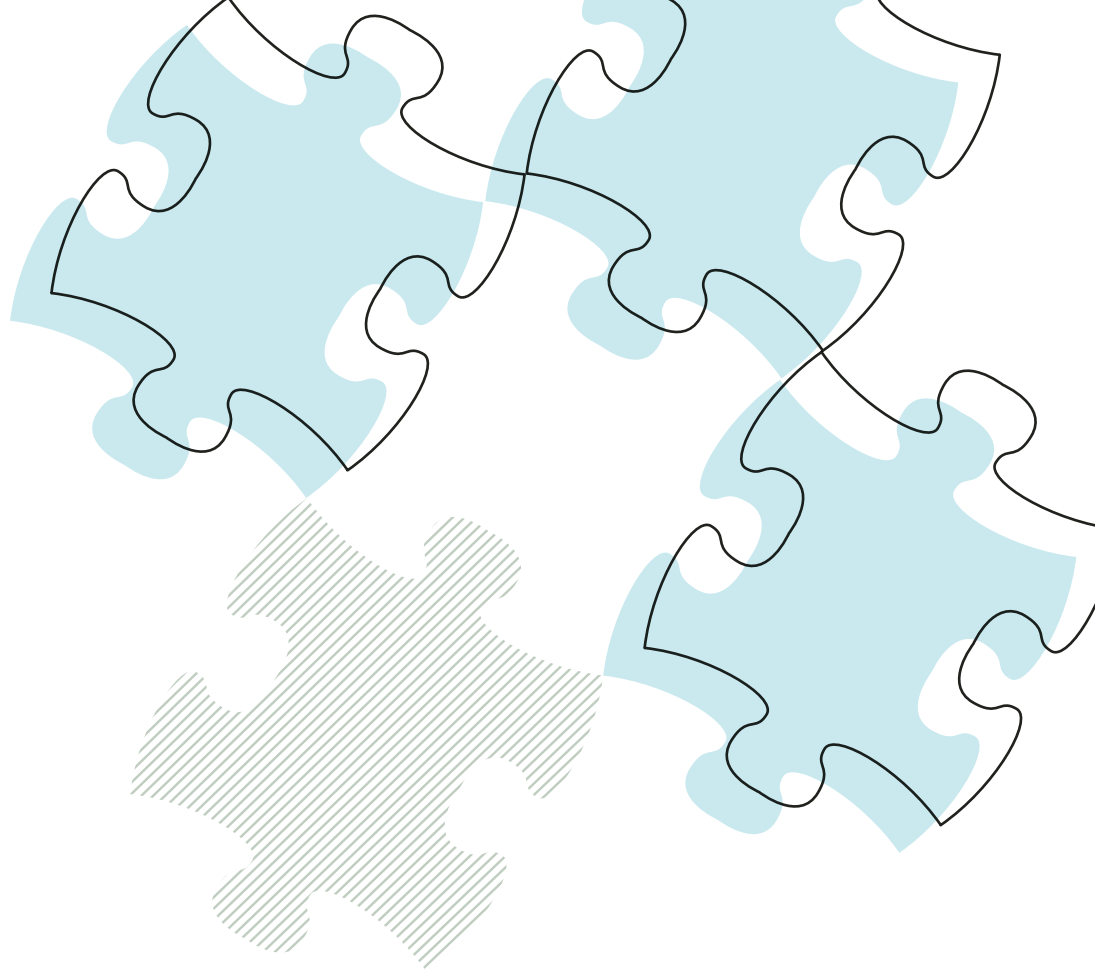


**UK UNIVERSITIES  
PURCHASING CONSORTIA  
STRATEGY  
2020 – 2025**



North Eastern Universities  
Purchasing Consortium





## INTRODUCTION

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UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC) is the representative body for UK regional and specialist purchasing consortia. We are working together to ensure that where appropriate, our practices are aligned and we deliver what our members need, when they need it: adding value, embedding sustainable and responsible procurement and delivering social value.

At a consortium level, our members determine our priorities. The core business of the consortia is to improve the value derived from procurement across the sector. A key service is the

delivery of compliant framework agreements which cover a range of goods and services. We currently have a broad portfolio of agreements in place and add new areas in response to sector needs and member demand.

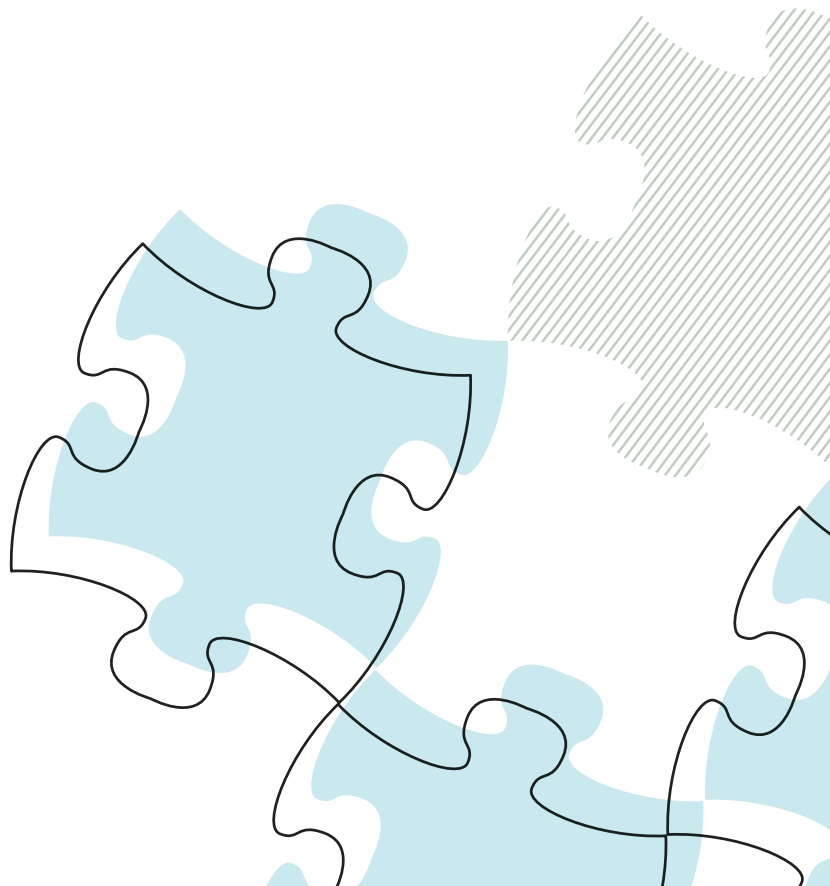
In the UK, the combined spend externally on goods, works and services of our Higher Education institutions is in excess of £10 billion per year. Each year, our members spend around £2 billion through our framework agreements; consequently, we help our members achieve tens of millions of pounds in cashable and non-cashable savings.

## CONSORTIA BENEFITS

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We are membership driven and everything we do is for the benefit of our members. We:

- Provide compliant framework agreements which deliver value for money and ongoing support through strategic contract management
- Support our procurement community at a senior and category level, providing expert advice and encouraging our stakeholders to share experiences and build relationships
- Enable and support access to learning and development opportunities through conferences, training sessions and other networking routes
- Deliver effective tools and support mechanisms for advancing the sector's responsible procurement activities
- Provide additional services and solutions within each consortium based on the particular needs of consortium members.



## OUR MEMBERSHIP

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The regional and specialist consortia are members of UKUPC; their directors sit on the UKUPC Board and each have representation on the UKUPC Focus Groups

<b>Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges</b> <a href="http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk">www.apuc-scot.ac.uk</a>	
<b>Higher Education Purchasing Consortium, Wales</b> <a href="http://www.hepcw.ac.uk">www.hepcw.ac.uk</a>	
<b>London Universities Purchasing Consortium</b> <a href="http://www.lupc.ac.uk">www.lupc.ac.uk</a>	
<b>North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium</b> <a href="http://www.neupc.ac.uk">www.neupc.ac.uk</a>	
<b>North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium</b> <a href="http://www.nwupc.ac.uk">www.nwupc.ac.uk</a>	
<b>Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium</b> <a href="http://www.supc.ac.uk">www.supc.ac.uk</a>	
<b>The Energy Consortium</b> <a href="http://www.tec.ac.uk">www.tec.ac.uk</a>	
<b>The University Caterers Organisation</b> <a href="http://www.tuco.ac.uk">www.tuco.ac.uk</a>	

## UKUPC MISSION

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*To leverage the benefits of collaborative procurement: working across the UK HE Consortia community to enhance procurement within HE and across our other members; helping deliver savings and efficiencies; maximising member benefits; embedding responsible/ethical procurement and social value using a sustainable supply chain management approach.*

## STRATEGIC AIMS

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Our strategic aims for 2020-2025 are to:



Be recognised as the leader in HE collaborative procurement



Maximise opportunities for consortium members to deliver efficiencies and add value by accessing our collaborative contracts and services



Work with HEIs collectively and individually to enhance collaborative procurement



4

Enable initiatives relating to procurement, including technology strategies, procurement capability development and the Higher Education Procurement Association (HEPA)



5

Embed responsible procurement across our services and support our members to embed it within their institutions, supporting the sector taking a major role in addressing climate change impacts related to our members' collaborative supply chains



6

Work to deliver the social value agenda



7

Promote our activities and successes through channels such as an annual review, consortium benefit reports, case studies and membership engagement



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Deliver benefits well in excess of £100m per annum across the UK every year



9

Deliver or facilitate the provision of framework agreements that can offer collaborative solutions for over 40% of the sector's recurrent spend

## OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

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**COLLABORATIVE** we make best endeavours to ensure joint and aligned working to achieve benefits for our members

**PROFESSIONAL** we are reliable, respected and competent

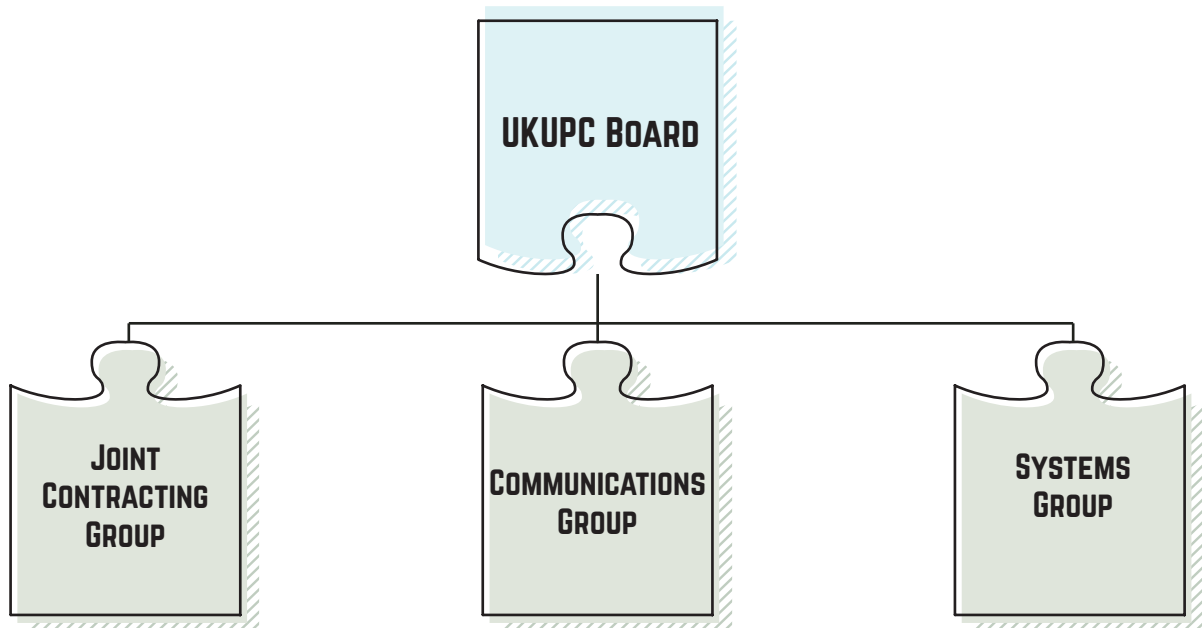
**THOUGHT LEADERS** we drive and facilitate innovation, development and progression

**ACCOUNTABLE** we are responsible and answerable for our actions

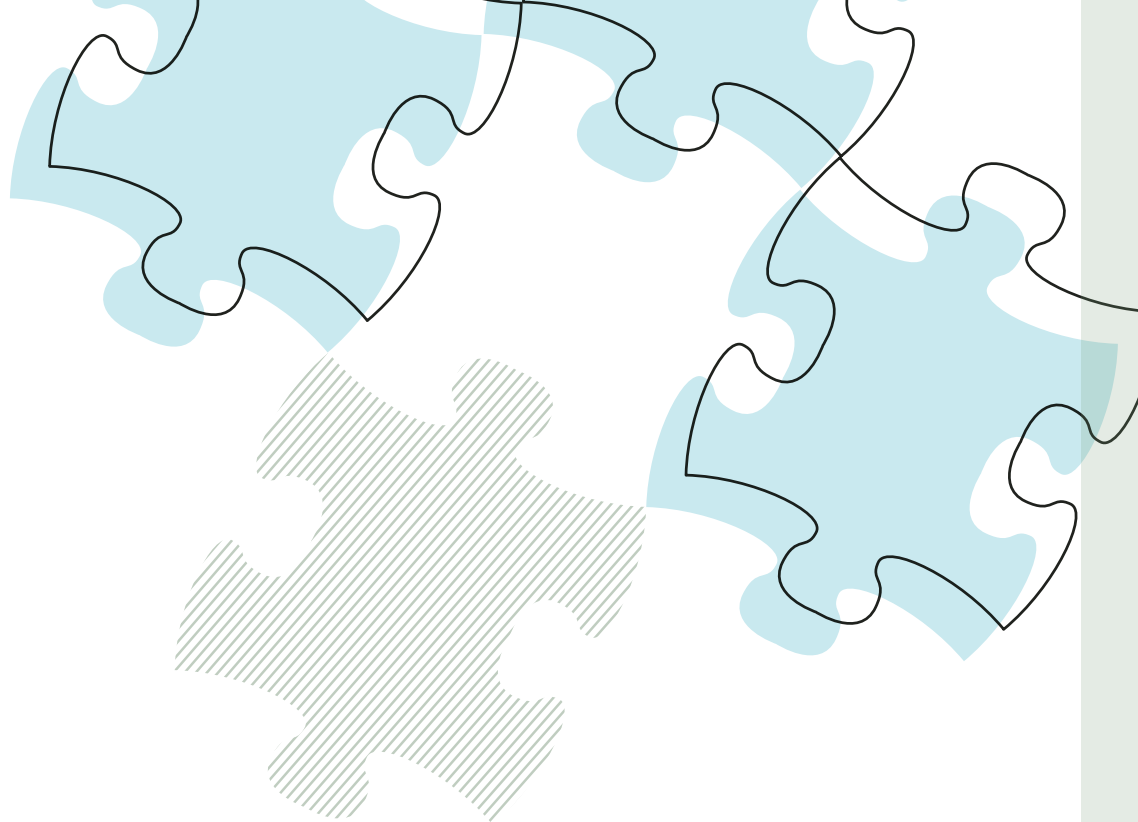
**ADAPTABLE** we are flexible and agile in response to changing environments

## OUR STRUCTURE

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## UKUPC BOARD

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The UKUPC Board provides strategic leadership to the UKUPC Focus Groups. We work together to share knowledge and best practice, to align and support the work of the consortia and the wider

HE procurement community and take overall responsibility for delivery of the Strategic Aims stated on the previous page.

## UKUPC FOCUS GROUPS

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To help achieve UKUPC aims we have three focus groups and a number of working groups that report into the focus groups. Each focus group has its own aims that support the delivery of

UKUPC strategic aims. All focus groups share best practice and explore opportunities to develop operational procurement with a collaborative approach. They consult

with constituent members and seek endorsement, deliver projects as agreed by Heads of Consortia and UKUPC and work to promote the work and benefits of UKUPC and our members.

All focus groups drive responsible procurement activities across the Consortia in conjunction with the HEPA Responsible Procurement Group.

# UKUPC JOINT CONTRACTING FOCUS GROUP

The Joint Contracting Focus Group (JCG) members are the strategic procurement leads of each of the HE Purchasing Consortia: JISC and Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) attend meetings as delivery partners.

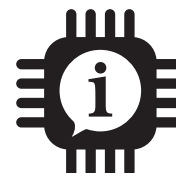
## We aim to:

- Explore opportunities to collaborate across categories at a national and inter-regional level and align resources to an agreed contracting programme for mutual benefit
- Deliver a collaborative programme of Framework Agreements to members offering best value, compliance, and assurance of sustainable practices
- Measure and report on scope category spend covered by contracts and level of uptake
- Provide oversight to the National Category Groups that report into the JCG
- Work towards standardisation of documentation and consistency in tools and systems
- Ensure the probity and compliance in all procurement activities of the Consortia.

The following National Category Groups provide reports to the JCG via a nominated member of JCG:



NATIONAL ESTATES GROUP



NATIONAL ICT GROUP



NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES GROUP



STEMED

## How we will know we have succeeded:

- Visible and delivered coordinated UK-wide national contracting programme (comprising both national, cross-regional and regional agreements depending on strategic imperative)
- Tenders delivered on time without duplication
- Portfolio of agreements across institutions' addressable spend; targeting significant spend areas
- Frameworks offer best value and demonstrate improvements and show how economic, environmental and social value can be improved.
- Effective levels of engagement.

# UKUPC CONSORTIA INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY FOCUS GROUP

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The UKUPC Consortia Information Systems Strategy Group (CISSG) aims to improve the information systems used by the consortia and member institutions. CISSG aims to improve the interoperability and functionality of systems, utilise the valuable data assets, take advantage of improvements in technology to ensure they enable good

procurement and provide the information needed to support and improve procurement, improving the quality, timeliness and accessibility of information. CISSG is reviewing the use of current systems and investigating opportunities to work collaboratively at a national, inter-regional or local consortia level.

### We aim to:

- Improve the technology/information systems landscape and explore opportunities to standardise and share to minimise duplication
- Streamline the capture, dissemination and use of data across UKUPC
- Deliver technology projects, as agreed by UKUPC Board for use both by consortia and for those which can be used where appropriate by member institutions

### How we will know we have succeeded:

- Provision of high-quality timely information to members
- Enhanced reporting capability to reflect HE, public sector and government initiatives
- Demonstrable efficiencies for consortia, members and suppliers
- Shared technology solutions will be delivered for use by consortia and member institutions



# UKUPC COMMUNICATION FOCUS GROUP

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The UKUPC Communications Focus Group aims to promote the benefits of collaborative procurement, identifying key audiences and developing tailored messages.

Group members, consisting of marketing and communications leads at each consortium, ensure information regarding contracting activities is

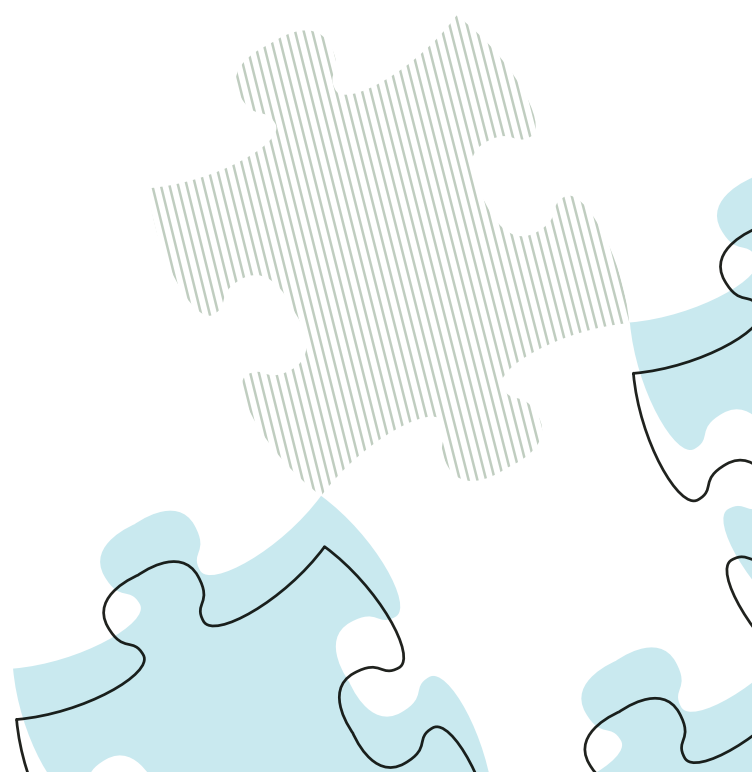
promoted through the appropriate channels, and provide details of additional benefits and opportunities available through consortia membership. We work collaboratively to coordinate events, where appropriate, to facilitate greater networking across the sector and reduce duplication of activities.

## We aim to:

- Develop and deliver communications channels/tools to maximise awareness and ease of use of collaborative agreements
- Promote the benefits and raise the profile of collaborative procurement at regional and national levels across the HE sector
- Develop promotional materials and communication channels to engage with stakeholders in a meaningful way
- Develop and participate in events that are of interest to the HE procurement community
- Monitor and appraise the effectiveness of communication links between and among UKUPC Consortia
- Develop a Communications Plan to promote the UKUPC Strategy
- Implement communications projects as agreed with the UKUPC Board.

## How we will know we have succeeded:

- Increased awareness by members and external stakeholders of UKUPC, our activities and success
- Full visibility across key stakeholders in member institutions of the services offered by UKUPC consortia
- Raised UKUPC profile.



# RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

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We aim to embed responsible procurement in all our activities. This is a priority for all consortia. We actively engage with the groups and organisations which support responsible procurement throughout our community.

## HEPA RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT GROUP (HEPA RPG)

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The HEPA Responsible Procurement Group (RPG) exists to address the issues surrounding Responsible Procurement in Higher Education and to move the agenda forward. It aims to increase awareness, improve working practice and encourage collaboration between universities and their suppliers.

HEPA RPG has responsible procurement sub-groups which will adapt and develop over time, key procurement stakeholders from universities and purchasing consortia are members of the HEPA RPG sub-groups.



## OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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HEPA Board

HEPA focus groups (various)

British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG)

HE/FE Funding and Governance bodies across the UK

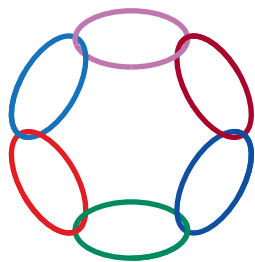
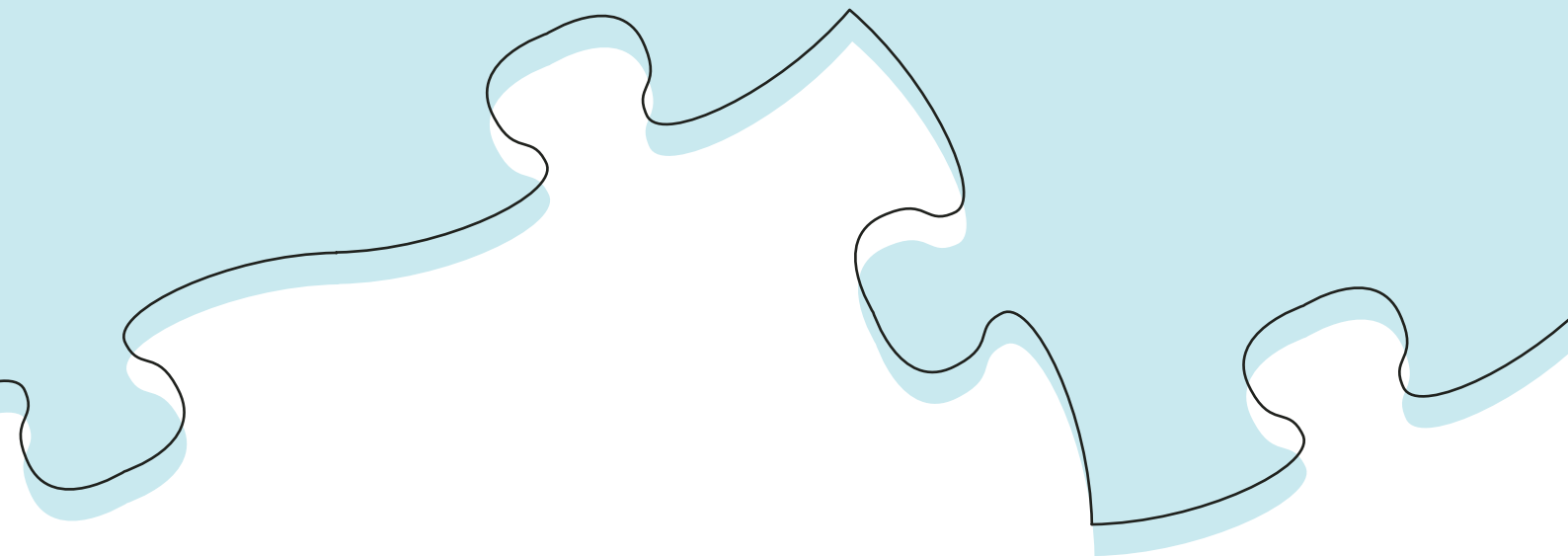
The Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate  
(Scottish Government)

National Procurement Service (Wales)

Crown Commercial Services (UK)

Universities UK (including its regional sub-bodies)

Other Key Professional Services Groups across Higher  
and Further Education



UKUPC



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