

Procurement Plan for Barking and Dagenham

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,080** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Barking and Dagenham. Some family work will be carried out as part of the contract for the Community Legal Advice Centre, and this work has been taken into account in setting the number of NMS which will be made available.

There is currently a good level of access to the full range of Family services and we anticipate that clients may require advice across a wide range of family issues. We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification A**.

- Providers will be required to tender for both the full range of private family work **and** public law children work.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA.
- Providers will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **100** Legal Help cases per year and **5** public law certificated cases per year.

Providers who wish to undertake only work for children will be able to tender for a specialist children contract with no requirement to undertake the full range of family services.

2. Social Welfare Law Services

We do not intend to tender for Social Welfare Law (SWL) services in the Barking and Dagenham procurement area at this time. All contracted SWL Services in the Procurement Area will be provided through Barking and Dagenham Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC).

3. Access

There are no potential access issues within Barking and Dagenham as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the procurement area. Therefore no criteria will be used to select providers on the basis of their location and providers will only be required to have a permanent presence within the area.

4. Budget

Current spend in this area is lower than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of NMS available in this area will be increased to enable an increase in access to services which moves closer to that suggested by the Model.

5. Current Supply (September 08 – August 09)

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	4	1,277	417
Family (private)	4		511

	Current Family Service		
	Providers delivering Housing & Family	Providers delivering 5+Public law certs	Providers delivering family private only
CLAC Provision	0	1	0
Total Solicitor Providers	1	4	0