

Procurement Plan for Bournemouth & Poole

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,880** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Bournemouth & Poole.

We have not historically had difficulty placing Family services in the PA and going forward we need to ensure access remains sufficient across both Bournemouth and Poole and that clients can continue to be able to access public law family advice, where historic access to these services have been limited.

We recognise that it may take time for the market to develop to be able to deliver the full range of Family services and will therefore advertise these tenders as **Service Specification B**.

- Providers will be able to tender for either the full range of private family work and / or public law children work.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must tender for and undertake a minimum of **100** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake only public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** certificated cases per year.

2. Family & Housing (Combined Service)

We will set aside a small proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & Family service.

There has previously been some demand for this combination of services and we therefore intend to invite bids for **100** Housing NMS made available across the procurement area for providers wishing to deliver Family and Housing services together.

Providers wishing to undertake Housing as part of this service combination will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **50** NMS in Housing per schedule year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to place tenders for **1,200** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **100** in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

Access to SWL services is currently good in Bournemouth but very limited in Poole where services are only delivered under tolerance or through outreach, although the majority of services are available in Bournemouth. However, we consider that there is sufficient demand in Bournemouth to provide access across the PA and will advertise these tenders as **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be tendered together as a bundle of services and providers will be required to both tender for and provide services in all three categories.

- Providers may bid to deliver Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits either as a single legal entity or as part of a consortium.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and a presence in the access point(s) tendered for as specified.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a minimum of **75** NMS in each category per schedule year.
- Providers delivering Community Care will be required to undertake a minimum of **20** NMS per schedule year.
- Providers delivering Employment will be required to undertake a minimum of **30** NMS per schedule year.
- Community Care and Employment providers will be required to have a part-time presence in the PA.
- As SWL tenders are invited under **Services Specification A**, we will require providers to employ an authorised litigator in order to conduct Housing and or Community Care services.

In the categories of Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits, the allocation of NMS is divided within the procurement area as follows:

PA	Debt	Housing	Welfare Benefits
Bournemouth and Poole	280	610	310

4. Access

There are potential access issues within Bournemouth & Poole even though the area is relatively small. Access to SWL services is extremely limited in the town of Poole and poor local transport can make travel from Poole to Bournemouth quite difficult.

To encourage access across the PA, we will therefore consider the use of selection criteria that prefer tenders from providers able to deliver SWL and Family services in the harder to reach areas.

5. Budget

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in Family services according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. It is therefore unlikely that we would wish to actively increase the provision of Family services and matter starts will be carefully managed with the aim of remaining within the level of current spend.

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

6. Current Supply (September 08 – August 09)

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	17	2,084	469
Family (private)	17		739
Debt	1	199	1
Housing	3	719	59
Welfare Benefits	1	241	0
Employment	1	86	0
Community Care	1	37	0

	Total Providers	Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
		Providers delivering 5 core SWL cats	Providers delivering 4 core SWL cats	Providers delivering 3 core SWL cats	Providers delivering 2 core SWL cats	Providers delivering 1 core SWL cat	Housing & Family	5+Public law certs	Family private only
Solicitor	18	0	0	0	1	1	1	13	1
NFP	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0