

## Procurement Plan for Bury

---

### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **990** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Bury. Current level of provision across the full range of Family services in this PA is low and whilst we would wish to see this to increase in the longer term we do not consider that the current market conditions exist to support the higher level of service specification.

- We will therefore invite providers to tender under **Service Specification B**, which will allow providers to tender for either the full range of private Family work and/or public law children.
- 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 50** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake 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 proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family Service. There has previously been only a limited demand for this service combination within the PA and we therefore intend to invite bids for **100 NMS** for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

- Providers wishing to offer Housing as part of this service combination will be required to tender for and undertake a **minimum of 50** Legal Help Housing matters per year.

#### 3. SWL Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,010** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and WB advice, **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment. We will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be advertised together and providers will be required to both tender for and provide services in all three categories.

- Providers may bid to deliver these services either as a single legal entity or as part of a consortium.
- Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the PA.

- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a **minimum of 100 NMS** in each category per schedule year.
- Providers will be required to undertake a **minimum of 20 NMS** in Community Care per schedule year.
- Providers will be required to undertake a **minimum of 30 NMS** in Employment per schedule year.
- Community Care and Employment providers will be required to have a part-time presence in the PA.
- As SWL tenders are to be invited under Service Specification A, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/or Community Care will be an essential criterion.

For Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits, we will divide the available NMS for the PA between the three categories as follows:

PA	Debt	Housing	Welfare Benefits
Bury	350	270	390

#### 4. Access

There are no access issues in the PA. The PA is geographically small and well served with road and public transport links between both towns as well as being an easy commute from Manchester City Centre. Historically provision has been concentrated within the north of the PA, particularly within Bury town and whilst this is not problematic, we would prefer to see additional SWL services being delivered in other parts of the PA..

We will therefore prefer providers who are able to deliver SWL services through a presence in more than one of the key towns within the PA.

#### 5. Budget

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help 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 SWL services in this area is lower than is suggested by the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of NMS available in this area has been 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)	9	1,104	180
Family (private)	12		290
Debt	2	303	3
Housing	3	349	41
WB	2	394	-
Employment	1	8	1
Community Care	0	22	1

	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	Providers delivering Housing & Family	Providers delivering 5+Public law certs	Providers delivering family private only
<b>Solicitor Providers</b>	<b>12</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	3
<b>NFP Providers</b>	<b>3</b>	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0