

Procurement Plan for Central Wales

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,050** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Central Wales. Access is currently centred in the main towns of Aberystwyth, Cardigan and Newtown, and outside these areas, access to services is limited. Due to the predominantly rural nature of the area and low population densities, we anticipate that providers will be unlikely to undertake a large volume of work.

We also recognise that it may take some time for providers to develop services that offer the full range of family work, particularly in the more rural parts of the PA and have therefore decided to advertise these tenders as **Service Specification B**.

- Providers will be able to bid 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 and in the access point(s) tendered for.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **25** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** public law certificated cases per year.

2. Family and Housing

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

There has not historically been a demand for this combination of services in the PA so we will only set aside **100** NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver this combination.

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.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite tenders for approximately **1,240** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt, **100** in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

As with Family services, given the very rural nature of this PA and low population densities, we anticipate that there will be limited demand for services in the PA. We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification B**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be tendered together and providers will be required to bid 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 Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and in the access point(s) tendered for.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a minimum of **50** 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 tenders are invited under **Service Specification B**, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/ or Community Care will not be an essential criterion. However, where a competitive process is necessary to decide between bids, as part of the selection process we will prefer providers who can provide the best access to an authorised litigator. We will also consider alternative arrangements but providers are advised that this may score lower in the ranking.

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
Central Wales	660	300	280

4. Access

Central Wales covers a large geographic area, covering almost one third of the whole of Wales and is predominantly rural. Services are currently more widely available in Powys than in Ceredigion. We wish to ensure access to advice is available across the whole of the PA and have therefore divided the PA into two access points based on the Unitary Authority areas in the PA (Ceredigion and Powys). Providers (other than those delivering Community

Care and Employment – see above) will be required to have a permanent presence in the access point(s) in which they deliver services.

Access Points	NMS allocated for Family	NMS allocated for Debt	NMS allocated for Housing	NMS allocated for Welfare Benefits
Ceredigion	420	220	100	100
Powys	630	440	200	180

All providers delivering services in this procurement area must be able to deliver those services taking account of clients whose language of choice is Welsh.

5. 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.

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

6. Current Supply September 08 – August 09

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	15	970	89
Family (private)	21		219
Debt	3	768	1
Housing	0	*436	3
Welfare Benefits	2	253	0
Employment	0	40	0
Community Care	0	1	0

* Includes Housing NMS delivered in the PA by way of outreach.

		Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
	Total Providers	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 only	Providers delivering 5+Public law certs	Providers delivering private family only
Solicitor	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6
NFP	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0