

## Procurement Plan for Doncaster

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### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **2,550** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Doncaster.

There is currently relatively good access to integrated Family services in the area and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case.

- We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification A** which will require providers to tender for both the full range of private family work and public law children work.
- Providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the procurement area.
- Providers must tender for and undertake a minimum of **75** Legal Help cases and **5** public law certificated cases per year.

#### 2. Family and 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 some limited demand for this service combination within the PA and therefore we intend to invite bids for **100** Housing NMS.

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

#### 3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,490** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and an additional **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment. We will invite these bids under **Service Specification B**.

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 Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits 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 **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 SWL 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. This might mean giving preference to those with an employed 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:

<b>PA</b>	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Welfare Benefits</b>
Doncaster	340	320	830

#### **4. Access**

There are no significant access issues in Doncaster. No criteria will therefore be used to select providers based on their location within the area and providers (other than those delivering Community Care and Employment –see above) will only be required to have a permanent presence within the PA.

#### **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)	13	2,835	591
Family (private)	16		799
Debt	1	174	3
Housing	2	421	15
Welfare Benefits	4	832	0
Employment	2	69	0
Community Care	1	32	0

	Total providers	Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
		Providers delivering 5 SWL cats	Providers delivering 4 SWL cats	Providers delivering 3 SWL cats	Providers delivering 2 SWL cats	Providers delivering 1 SWL cat	Providers delivering Housing & Family	Providers delivering 5+Public law certs	Providers delivering family private only
<b>Total Solicitor Providers</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total NFP Providers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>