

Procurement Plan for Halton & Warrington

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for, **1,740** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Halton & Warrington.

This area currently has a good level of service in the Family category and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. We will therefore invite tenders under **Service Specification A**

- Providers will be required to deliver the full range of private family work **and** public law children work.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and a presence in the access point(s) tendered for as specified.
- Providers will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **75** 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. 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 very little demand for this service combination within the PA and we therefore intend to invite bids for **100 NMS** in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

Providers wishing to provide 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. Social Welfare (SWL) Services

We intend to invite bids for **2,080** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and **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 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 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 within access point(s) tendered for as specified.
- 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 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
Warrington & Halton	1,100	440	540

4. Access

There are some potential access issues within Halton & Warrington as the area is made up of two distinct areas with a significant travel distance between the two.

We will therefore make NMS available by defined access points within the PA and use criteria that require providers to deliver services in at least one of these areas through a permanent presence in the access point.

Access Points	Family NMS available	NMS available in Debt	NMS available in Housing	NMS available in Welfare Benefits
Halton	920	550	220	270
Warrington	820	550	220	270

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 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

All numbers of providers in the tables below are based on individual scheduled offices and do not represent the number of firms currently providing services.

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (private)	17	1,856	567
Family (public)	13		437
Debt	3	1,233	4
Housing	1	610	8
WB	3	592	0
Employment	1	77	0
Community Care	0	3	1

	Total providers	Current SWL Services: number of providers delivering combinations of categories					Housing & Family	Current Family Services: number of providers delivering public/private	
		5 core SWL cats	4 core SWL cats	3 core SWL cats	2 core SWL cats	1 core SWL cat		5+Public law certs	Family private only
Solicitor	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4
NFP	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0