

Procurement Plan for Lewisham

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,470** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Lewisham.

There is currently a good level of access to Family services in the area and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. The number of care applications made by the local authority has risen significantly between 2007 and 2009 and Lewisham currently has the highest number of applications of any inner London borough. As significant demand for public law services is evident in this PA and we consider that these clients may require advice across a wide range of family issues we will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

- Providers will be required to deliver the full breadth of family cases across both private and public family law.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA.
- Providers will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **100** 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 and Family service.

We have seen a significant amount of demand for this service within the procurement area. We will therefore make **200** NMS in Housing available for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

Providers wishing to bid for this service combination will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **50** Legal Help matters in Housing per schedule year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite tenders for **670** new matter starts (NMS) across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and WB advice, **100** in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

Clients currently access SWL services across the PA, though volumes of clients at each location are low and the amount spent on SWL services in this area is lower than is suggested by our Indicative Spend Budget Model. However, recent bid rounds have seen considerable interest from providers and we expect that there will be competition to deliver services in the area. To ensure continued access to the range of SWL services and to encourage the further development of services we intend to invite tenders under **Service Specification A** and to set the minimum NMS level at the lower level of **50**.

Housing Welfare Benefits and Debt will be advertised 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 Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will need 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 we will invite bids under Service Specification A, providers will be required to employ an authorised litigator in order to conduct Housing and/or Community Care services.

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
Lewisham	190	260	220

4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Lewisham as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the procurement area. Therefore no criteria will be used to select providers on the basis of their location within the area and providers will only be required to have a permanent presence within the PA.

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 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 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)	8	1,334	622
Family (private)	8		496
Debt	2	82	0
Housing	5	594	145
Welfare Benefits	2	102	0
Employment	2	39	0
Community Care	2	24	1

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