

# **Procurement Plan for North & North East Lincolnshire**

---

## **Procurement Summary**

### **1. Family Services**

We intend to invite bids for approximately **2,850** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of North and North East Lincolnshire.

There is currently relatively good access to family services in the PA although the number of care proceedings cases brought has historically been low, particularly in North Lincolnshire.

- We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification B** which will allow providers to tender 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 within Access Points specified.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must bid for and undertake a minimum of **100** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake only public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** public law certificated cases per year.

### **2. Housing and Family Services (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.

There has previously been some limited demand for this service combination in the PA and we therefore intend to invited 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** Legal Help Housing cases per year.

### **3. Social Welfare Law Services**

We intend to place tenders for approximately **1,660** NMS across Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and an additional **100** NMS in Community Care and **140** NMS in Employment. We will invite these bids under **Service Specification A**.

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 and within Access Points 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 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
- Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the PA and a presence in the procurement area and a presence in the access point(s) tendered for as specified.
- 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 to deliver 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
North and North East Lincolnshire	940	300	420

#### 4. Access

There is currently a good level of access in the two main towns of Scunthorpe and Grimsby, and it is important that access is maintained.

We will therefore make NMS available for particular 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.

Access Point	NMS allocated for Family	NMS allocated for Debt	NMS allocated for Housing	NMS allocated for Welfare Benefits	Presence Required
North East Lincolnshire	1460	470	(150)	210	May be delivered by Part Time presence for Providers with Permanent presence in the PA.
North Lincolnshire	1390	470	(150)	210	May be delivered by

					Part Time presence for Providers with Permanent presence in 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 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 Offices	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	13	3,170	422
Family (private)	15		794
Debt	4	944	7
Housing	3	217	46
Welfare Benefits	2	426	0
Employment	2	138	1
Community Care	0	0	0

	Total providers	Current SWL Services (08/09)						Current Family Services (08/09)	
		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
Total Solicitor Providers	15	0	0	1	1	3	1	11	2
Total NFP Providers	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0