

## Procurement Plan for Newcastle

---

### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **2,470** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Newcastle.

There is currently a good level of access to public and private family services in Newcastle. To maintain this good access to the range of services we will advertise these tenders as **Service Specification A**.

- Providers will be required to tender for both the full range of private family work and public law children work.
- 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 and **5** public law certificates 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 and 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. There has previously been significant demand for this service combination in the procurement area and we therefore intend to make **700** Housing NMS available to be provided in this service combination.

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 **2,010** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits, **160** in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

The PA is relatively small, and clients are already able to access advice at several locations. Good transport links support ease of movement around the

area. There is a high volume of clients and significant demand for all three core categories, including very high demand in Housing. We will therefore invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be advertised together 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 procurement area.
- 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.
- Community Care and Employment providers will be required to have a part-time presence in the procurement area.
- As we are inviting tenders under **Service Specification A**, we will require all providers 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
Newcastle	580	540	890

#### 4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Newcastle as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the procurement area. Therefore no additional 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 procurement area.

#### 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

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	18	2,744	720
Family (private)	21		747
Debt	2	406	7
Housing	6	1,623	153
Welfare Benefits	6	984	1
Employment	1	48	1
Community Care	2	180	0

	Total providers	Current SWL Services					Current Family Services		
		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	Providers delivering 5+Public law certs	Providers delivering Family private only
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NFP</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>