

Procurement Plan for North Yorkshire

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **3,770** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area of North Yorkshire.

The area of North Yorkshire is very large and mainly rural. The population is spread across the area and providers are currently based in a small number of semi-rural locations. Previous bid rounds and contracting activity has demonstrated difficulties in getting permanent provision of advice services in the areas of most need, and we recognise that even in these areas of need, it is unlikely that there will be a high level of demand across both areas of family law.

We will therefore advertise these tenders as **Service Specification B**.

- This will allow providers to tender for either the full range of private family work and/or public law children work.
- Providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the procurement area and within access points tendered for.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must bid for and undertake a minimum of **50** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** public law certificated cases per year.

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 some demand for this service combination in the procurement area and we will therefore set a side **100** of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & 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 cases per year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite tenders for **1,900** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits, **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment.

The area is very large and sparsely populated and it has historically been difficult to place services here, so client access is currently limited. To encourage the development of further SWL services, we will invite these bids under **Service Specification B**.

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 PA and a part time presence in the access point(s) tendered for.
- 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:

PA	Debt	Housing	Welfare Benefits
North Yorkshire	640	570	690

4. Access

There are some potential access issues within North Yorkshire as the area is geographically large and previous tender rounds have failed to attract providers wishing to deliver services from office locations in Scarborough and Craven.

We will therefore make NMS available at recognised access points within the procurement area, based on Local Authority areas: Scarborough & Ryedale, Selby & York, Harrogate & Craven and Rural North Yorkshire (Richmond, Northallerton and Catterick).

Family providers will be required to have a permanent presence in **each** access point where they tender to provide services.

Access Point	NMS allocated for Family
Scarborough & Ryedale	790
York & Selby	1290
Harrogate & Craven	1030
North Yorkshire Rural (Richmond, Northallerton and Catterick)	660

SWL services are currently very fragmented across the procurement area. Therefore providers bidding to deliver SWL services will be required to have a permanent presence in the procurement area but may have a part time presence in the access point(s) they are bidding for.

Access Point	NMS allocated for Debt	NMS allocated for Housing	NMS allocated for Welfare Benefits
Scarborough & Ryedale	130	160	200
York & Selby	220	160	230
Harrogate & Craven	180	150	140
North Yorkshire Rural (Richmond, Northallerton and Catterick)	110	100	120

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

from that which is currently being delivered 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 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)	33	3,408	755
Family (private)	42		1,066
Debt	5	641	4
Housing	5	571	55
Welfare Benefits	4	613	0
Employment	1	95	0
Community Care	0	1	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
Solicitor	42	0	0	0	2	2	2	25	9
NFP	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0