

Procurement Plan for Oldham

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,350** NMS for the provision of face to face Family Advice within the Procurement Area (PA) of Oldham.

The area currently has a good level of service in the family category and although we have seen a small reduction in the overall number of suppliers in the last year, this has had no impact on access to services.

The area has a good level of service in the family category, although this is predominantly in the own centre. Significant demand for public law services is evident in this PA and we consider that as 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 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 **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 and Housing Services

We are aware that housing and family issues often present together and have seen some level of demand for this service within the procurement area. We will therefore make **150** matter starts in housing available for providers wishing to deliver a combined housing and family service. Providers will be required to tender for and deliver a minimum of **50** new matter starts in housing at Legal Help level, per schedule year.

3. SWL Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,930** new matter starts (NMS) across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and WB advice and **100** in Community Care and **100** for Employment. We will invite tenders 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.
- Providers delivering Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a minimum of 75 NMS in each category per schedule year.
- 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 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 to be invited under Service Specification A, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/or Community Care will be an essential criterion

In the categories of Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits, the allocation of NMS is divided within the procurement area as follows:

PA	Debt	Housing	Welfare Benefits
Oldham	420	770	740

4. Access

There are no access issues within this PA. Although historically the provision of services has tended to be concentrated in Oldham town centre, there are good transport links especially by bus, between Oldham and the smaller towns and villages and it is not considered that this presents any barrier to accessing services.

We therefore will not set criteria to select providers on the basis of their location within the PA. Instead providers will only be required to have a permanent office within the procurement area.

5. Budget

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help 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 also 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)	12	1,494	548
Family (private)	12		428
Debt	2	373	2
Housing	4	1,145	32
WB	3	795	0
Employment	2	101	0
Community Care	0	9	0

	Total suppliers	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 Providers	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	0
NFP Providers	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0