

Procurement Plan for Redbridge

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **870** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Redbridge.

Clients currently have some access to integrated family services in this area and there is significant demand for both public and private advice. Whilst there is access to private family advice it has historically been provided in relatively low volumes and current spend is below that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification A** but set the minimum NMS requirement at the lower level of **50** per year.

- 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 **50** Legal Help cases per year.
- Providers must undertake a minimum of **5** public law children 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.

There has previously been limited demand for this service combination in the PA and we therefore intend to invite 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 NMS in Housing cases per schedule year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite tenders for approximately **1,250** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and an additional **100** NMS in Community Care and **150** NMS in Employment.

Clients currently have some access to the range of SWL services, though Debt services are not as well developed as those in Housing and Welfare Benefits. We will therefore invite these bids under **Service Specification A**, but set the minimum NMS requirement at the lower level of **75** to encourage the development of further services.

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 these services 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.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a minimum of **75** 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 A**, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in 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
Redbridge	270	540	440

4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Redbridge 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 and providers will only be required to have a permanent presence within the area.

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 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)	15	786	503
Family (private)	16		422
Debt	3	234	5
Housing	4	703	122
Welfare Benefits	5	479	0
Employment	4	233	0
Community Care	3	48	0

		Current SWL Services: number of providers delivering combinations of categories						Current Family Services: number of providers delivering public/private	
		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	Family private only
Solicitor	19	3	0	0	1	1	0	7	1
NFP	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0