

Procurement Plan for Rochdale

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,280** NMS for the provision of face-to-face Family Advice within the Procurement Area (PA) of Rochdale.

There is currently a good level of access to Family services in the area and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. Significant demand for public law services is evident in Rochdale and as these clients may require advice across a wide range of family issues we will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

- This will mean that providers will be required to deliver the full range of Family work across both private **and** public family law.
- Providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the PA
- Providers must tender for and undertake a **minimum of 75** Legal Help NMS 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. Housing & Family (Combined Service)

We will set aside a small proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & Family service. There has previously been a small level of demand for this service in the PA and we will therefore make **100 Housing NMS** available for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & Family service.

- Providers wishing to deliver Housing as part of this service combination will be required to tender for and deliver a **minimum of 50** Housing Legal Help matters per year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,040** new matter starts (NMS) across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and **100** NMS in Community Care and **140** NMS in Employment. We will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be advertised 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 these services either as a single 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 **100** NMS in each category per schedule year.
- Providers will be required to undertake a minimum of **20** NMS in Community Care per schedule year
- Providers will be required to undertake a minimum of **30** NMS in Employment per schedule year
- Community Care and Employment providers will be required to have a part-time presence in the PA.
- As Social Welfare Law tenders are invited under **Service Specification A**, we will require 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
Rochdale	570	200	270

4. Access

There are no access issues within Rochdale as the area is not geographically large and has reasonable public transport links. Historic supply has tended to be concentrated in the centre of Rochdale with some services in the small outlying towns. Those clients based in outlying areas may also choose access services in one of the nearby procurement areas. No criteria will therefore be used to select providers on the basis of their location within Rochdale and providers will only be required to have 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 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 SWL services in this area is lower than is suggested by the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of NMS available in this area has been 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 (Offices)	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	11	1,422	708
Family (private)	11		408
Debt	2	556	5
Housing	2	250	34
Welfare Benefits	1	220	0
Employment	1	137	0
Community Care	0	14	0

	Total Providers	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	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0
NFP Providers	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0