

Procurement Plan for Sefton

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,560 NMS** for the provision of face to face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Sefton. The area currently has a good level of access to family services and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case.

However, whilst the full range of family services is readily available in the more densely populated parts of the PA, there are parts of the area that are unlikely to require large volumes of work but are important in maintaining a good level of access to services.

- We will therefore invite providers to tender under **Service Specification B** which will allow providers to tender for either the full range of private Family work and / or public law children work.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and in the Access Point where specified.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must tender for and undertake a **minimum of 50** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake only public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** certificated cases per year.

2. Housing & Family (combined service)

We will set aside a proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & Family service. There has previously been significant demand for this service combination within the PA and we therefore intend to invite tenders for **500 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 Housing matters per year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,550 NMS** across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, with a further **100** in Community Care and **100** in Employment. We will invite these tenders under **Service Specification B**.

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 tender to deliver Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits 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 within access point(s) tendered for as specified.
- 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 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, in the Service B areas where a competitive process is necessary to decide between tenders, 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.

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
Sefton	500	300	750

4. Access

Geographically the PA is split between the Southport and Bootle areas with travel time between the 2 areas up to an hour on public transport, we will therefore make NMS available for particular access points within the PA and use criteria that require providers to deliver services in at least one of these areas through a permanent office.

Access Point	NMS allocated for Family	NMS allocated for Debt	NMS allocated for Housing	NMS allocated for Welfare Benefits
Southport & Formby	520	250	140	370
Bootle &	1040	250	160	380

Crosby				
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5. Budget

The amount currently spent on Family Legal Help in this area is slightly below that 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.

Current spend in SWL services in this area is also slightly below that 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)	12	1,503	327
Family (private)	15		451
Debt	1	407	2
Housing	2	895	151
WB	1	701	0
Employment	0	1	1
Community Care	0	0	0

		Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
	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	15	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	3
NFP Providers	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0