

## Procurement Plan for South Derbyshire

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### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,610** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of South Derbyshire.

The area currently has a good level of service in the Family category and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. However, there are a number of access points within the area where the semi-rural nature of the PA means providers will be unlikely to undertake a large volume of work across both public and private law. To ensure a good level of service provision for clients we will invite providers to bid under **Service Specification B**.

- Providers will be required to tender for and deliver **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.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must tender for and deliver a minimum of **75** NMS for private family law per year.
- Those wishing to undertake only public law children cases must commit to undertake at least **5** certificated public law cases per year

#### 2. Housing and Family (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 within the PA and we therefore intend to invite bids for **150** NMS available across the PA for providers wishing to deliver Family and Housing services together.

Providers wishing to provide Housing as part of this service combination will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of 50 NMS in Housing per schedule year.

#### 3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for **550** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment. We have historically

experienced difficulty in placing SWL services in this area and to encourage increased provision, we will invite bids under **Service Specification B**.

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 Housing, Debt 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 have a permanent presence in the PAs of North or South Derbyshire or in the PA of the City of Derby.
- 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
South Derbyshire	250	150	150

#### 4. Access

There are some potential access issues within South Derbyshire as the area has a number of geographically distant market towns and a relatively large rural population.

For Family providers we will require that the provider has a permanent presence in the procurement area.

Currently not all SWL services are available from permanent locations within South Derbyshire. For providers delivering Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits, we will require that the provider has a permanent presence in the PAs of North or South Derbyshire or in the PA of the City of Derby. However in order to ensure the best levels of levels of access for clients in the area we will prefer providers that have a permanent presence in South Derbyshire.

## 5. Budget

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in Family services 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 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 (private)	14	1,637	344
Family (public)	11		257
Debt	0	246	0
Housing	0	157	2
Welfare Benefits	0	29	0
Employment	0	13	0
Community Care	0	5	0

SWL delivered in area through outreach

	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
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NFP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>