

Procurement Plan for South Tyneside

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,320** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of South Tyneside.

Clients currently have good access to services across this small, urban procurement area. To achieve the best possible service for clients in this area we will advertise these tenders as **Service Specification A**.

- 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 **100** Legal Help cases 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 (Combined Service)

We will set aside a small proportion of available NMS in the Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service. There has previously been little demand for this service combination within the procurement area and we therefore intend to set the available Housing NMS at **100**.

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

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,350** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits, **100** NMS in Community Care and **120** NMS in Employment.

There is currently some access to the range of SWL services in South Tyneside and we wish to maintain client access to this level of service. We will

therefore invite tenders under **Service Specification A**. However, access to debt and housing services is more limited than access to welfare benefits services, and to ensure better access to these services and encourage the development of new services we will set the minimum NMS requirement at the lower level of **50** in all three categories.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be tendered together 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.
- 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 **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 we are inviting tenders under Service Specification A, we will require all 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
South Tyneside	350	250	750

4. Access

There are no potential access issues within South Tyneside as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the procurement area. Therefore no additional criteria will be used to select providers on the basis of their location within the area and providers will only be required to have a 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 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 (public)	11	1,470	443
Family (private)	12		345
Debt	1	324	0
Housing	1	231	6
Welfare Benefits	1	748	0
Employment	1	116	1
Community Care	0	0	0

	Total providers	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	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1
NFP	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0