

Procurement Plan for Southampton

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,520** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face to face Family Advice within the procurement area of Southampton.

There is currently significant demand within the city of Southampton for both public and private law services to be delivered together. We will invite bids under **Service Specification A**, which means that providers will be required to undertake both public and private work.

- Providers will be required to tender for and undertake a minimum of **100** Legal Help cases per year and **5** public law certificated cases per year.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA.

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

There is currently significant demand in the procurement area for the delivery of family and housing advice together. We will therefore invite bids from providers willing to provide services in Housing and Family together to ensure access is maintained. We will make **300** NMS available in housing to be delivered in this combination.

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. SWL Services

We intend to invite tenders for **450** new matter starts (NMS) across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and WB advice, **140** in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

There is currently significant demand within the city of Southampton for the core SWL categories, but limited access to services in debt and welfare benefits. Given the urban make up of this PA with corresponding good public transport links and in order to maintain the good level of client access to services, we will advertise these tenders as **Service Specification B**

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be tendered together and providers will be required to tender for and provide services in all three categories.

- Providers may bid to deliver these 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
- In addition providers bidding for contracts in these three categories will be required to undertake a minimum of **50** NMS in each of the three categories per schedule year.
- Those applying for contracts in Community Care or Employment will be required to bid for and undertake a minimum of **20** NMS in Community Care and **30** NMS in Employment.
- Community Care and Employment providers will be required to have a part-time presence in the PA.
- SWL tenders will be invited under Service Specification B.

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
Southampton	150	150	150

4. Access

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

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 (2008-09)

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued (08/09)
Family (public)	12	1,692	301
Family (private)	12		579
Debt	0	13	2
Housing	3	279	66
WB	0	11	1
Employment	1	26	0
Community Care	1	143	2

	Total providers	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	12	0	0	0	2	1	1	8	0
NFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0