

## Procurement Plan for Southwark

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### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,030** New Matter Starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Southwark.

The area currently has some access to the full range of family services and there is significant demand for both public and private advice. We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification A**. The current spend is significantly below that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model and to encourage the development of services we have set the requirement to undertake a minimum number of Legal Help cases at the lower level of **50** NMS per year.

- 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 **50** Legal Help cases per year and a minimum of **5** public law certificates 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 & Housing (Combined Service)

We will set aside a proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

There has been a significant amount of demand for this service combination within the PA. We will therefore make **500** NMS in Housing available for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

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 tenders for approximately **1,870** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **160** NMS in Community Care and **110** NMS in Employment.

Although access to services is currently good, the market is currently better developed in Housing and Welfare Benefits than in Debt. We will therefore invite bids under **Service Specification A** but will set the minimum NMS requirement at the lower level of **50** in Debt.

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 Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits services either as a single legal entity or as part of a consortium.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits 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 Housing and Welfare Benefits and **50** NMS in Debt 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 A**, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/or Community Care will be an essential criterion.

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
Southwark	390	660	820

### 4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Southwark as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the PA. 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 lower than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of NMS available in this area will be increased to enable an increase in access to services which moves closer to that suggested by the Model.

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in SWL services according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. It is therefore unlikely that we would wish to actively increase the provision of SWL services and matter starts will be carefully managed with the aim of remaining within the level of current spend.

## 6. Current Supply (September 08 – August 09)

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	11	939	650
Family (private)	13		224
Debt	1	191	1
Housing	13	1,462	513
Welfare Benefits	5	878	4
Employment	3	117	0
Community Care	3	138	52

	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
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>19</b>	0	0	1	1	9	6	9	2
<b>NFP</b>	<b>4</b>	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0