

Procurement Plan for Stockport

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,550** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face to face Family Advice within the procurement area (PA) of Stockport.

The area currently has a good level of access to the full range of Family services and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. We will therefore invite providers to tender under **Service Specification A**.

- Providers will be required to deliver 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 **75** Legal Help cases per year 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 & Housing (Combined Service)

We will set aside a proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & Family service. We have previously seen some demand for this service combination within the PA and we therefore intend to invite bids for **300** NMS in Housing from 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** Legal Help Housing matters per year.

3. SWL Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,310** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice and **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment. We will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

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 these 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 A**, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/ or Community Care will be an essential criterion.

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
Stockport	570	220	520

4. Access

Whilst the PA is comprised of Stockport and a number of other towns, there are no potential access issues as all areas are easily accessible and the PA is not geographically large. Providers will therefore only be required to have a permanent presence in the PA.

5. Budget

Current spend in this area is higher than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help 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 SWL services in this area is lower than is 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	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (private)	13	1,661	606
Family (public)	11		315
Debt	1	564	1
Housing	3	473	54
WB	1	439	0
Employment	0	22	0
Community Care	0	11	0

	Total Providers	Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
		Providers delivering 5 SWL cats	Providers delivering 4 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	13	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	2
NFP Providers	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0