

Procurement Plan for Stockton-on-Tees

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,260** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Stockton-on-Tees.

Within the PA it has always been possible to access Family services and there are no issues with transport or rural locations. To ensure continued access to the range of services currently available to clients we will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

There has however been change and fragmentation in the Family market in the last year. To ensure advice provision is maintained giving the best possible access to clients we will set the minimum NMS requirement at **75**.

- 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 **75** Legal Help cases and **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 and Housing (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 in the PA and we therefore intend to make **100** Housing NMS available to be provided in this service 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. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **2,140** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits, **130** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment.

There is currently good access to the full range of SWL services across this PA. We will therefore invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

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 **100** 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
Stockton on Tees	820	520	800

4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Stockton-on-Tees as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the PA. 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.

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6. Current Supply: September 08 – August 09

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	8	1,402	451
Family (private)	9		375
Debt	2	1,020	1
Housing	2	552	5
Welfare Benefits	2	913	0
Employment	0	2	0
Community Care	1	149	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 9	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	1
NFP 1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0