

## Procurement Plan for Sunderland

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### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **2,550** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Sunderland.

Clients currently have good access to the range of Family services in the PA and 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 and, where specified, in the access point where they tender to carry out work.
- 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 the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Family and Housing service. There is currently some demand for this service and we intend to set the available Housing NMS for this service 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 approximately **2,310** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits, **120** NMS in Community Care and **100** in Employment.

There is currently good access to the range of SWL services in the PA and we will invite these bids under **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be advertised 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 and, where specified, in the access point where they tender to provide services.
- 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:

<b>PA</b>	<b>Debt</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Welfare Benefits</b>
Sunderland	1,030	660	620

#### **4. Access**

There are potential access issues within Sunderland as the population is dispersed across five centres throughout the PA. We are therefore considering the use of selection criteria that prefer tenders from providers able to deliver services in the harder to reach areas.

#### **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)	17	2,832	399
Family (private)	18		594
Debt	2	1,272	0
Housing	3	832	91
Welfare Benefits	2	543	0
Employment	2	62	0
Community Care	1	130	11

	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
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NFP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>