

Procurement Plan for Tameside

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **1,200** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face to face Family Advice within the Procurement Area (PA) of Tameside.

The area has a good level of service in the family category, and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. Significant demand for public law services is evident in this procurement area and we consider that as these clients may require advice across a wide range of family issues we will advertise the tender as **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 **50** 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 and Housing (combined service)

We are aware that housing and family problems often present together and have seen some level of demand for this service within the PA. We will therefore make **150** housing NMS available for providers wishing to deliver a combined housing and family service. Providers will be required to tender for and deliver a minimum of **50** new matter starts at Legal Help level per schedule year.

3. SWL Services

We intend to invite tenders for **1,320** new matter starts (NMS) across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and WB advice and **100** in Community Care and **100** Employment.

Housing, Welfare Benefits and Debt will be tendered 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 either as a single legal entity or as part of a consortium.
- Providers delivering Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits will be required to undertake a minimum of 100 NMS in each category per schedule year.

- Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the PA.
- 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.
- SWL tenders are invited under **Service Specification B**, the requirement to employ an authorised litigator in Housing and/or Community Care will therefore **not** be an essential criterion.

However, in service B areas where a competitive process is necessary to decide between bids, as part of the selection process, we will give preference to providers who can provide the best access to an authorised litigator. This might mean giving preference to those with an employed authorised litigator. We will also consider alternative arrangements but providers are advised that this may score lower in the ranking.

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
Tameside	480	200	640

4. Access

There are no significant geographic access issues within the area. There are good bus links between the towns and some towns are also well served by rail links. Consequently we have not specified access points and providers will be required only to provide services from a permanent presence in the procurement area.

5. Budget

The amount currently spent on Family Legal Help in this area is slightly below that 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

The amount currently spent on SWL services in this area is also slightly below that suggested by the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of SWL 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 (public)	9	1,137	445
Family (private)	11		351
Debt	2	479	2
Housing	2	306	49
WB	2	644	0
Employment	1	99	0
Community Care	1	25	0

		Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
	Total Providers	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 Providers	11	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	2
NFP Providers	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0