

Procurement Plan for Trafford

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **990** NMS for the provision of face-to-face family advice within the procurement area of Trafford.

There is currently a reasonable level of access to family services in many parts of the PA. However, we wish to encourage development of services in the most deprived parts of the PA, particularly Partington. We will invite providers to bid under **Service Specification B**.

- Providers will be able to tender for **either** the full range of private Family work **and/or** public law children work.
- Providers will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and in the access points tendered for as specified.
- Where providers wish to undertake private family work they must tender for and undertake a **minimum of 75** Legal Help cases per year.
- Those wishing to undertake public law children work must commit to undertake at least **5** certificated cases per year.

2. Family & Housing (Combined Service)

We have previously seen some level of demand for a combined Housing & Family service in this PA and will set aside **100** of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing & 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. Social Welfare Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,400** new matter starts (NMS) across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **100** in Community Care and **100** for Employment. There is currently good access to SWL services across the procurement area, and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. 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 Debt, Housing and Welfare Benefits either as a single legal entity or as part of a consortium.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits will need to have a permanent presence in the PA and in the access points tendered for as specified
- Providers bidding to carry out work in Debt, Housing 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 bids will be invited under Service Specification A, providers will need to employ an authorised litigator in order to tender to deliver Housing and / or Community Care services.

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
Trafford	500	500	400

4. Access

The PA of Trafford is made up of several key towns namely, Partington, Stretford, Sale, Urmston and Altrincham. Whilst public transport is generally well provided across the PA, we wish to ensure that access to services is increased in the most deprived areas and most especially in Partington.

For this reason the area will be divided into two access points; North and South Trafford and matters starts will be available as follows:

Access Points	NMS allocated for Family	NMS allocated for Debt	NMS allocated for Housing	NMS allocated for Welfare Benefits
1. North Trafford including: Stretford Partington Old Trafford Urmston	360	250	250	200
2. South Trafford including: Altrincham Sale	630	250	250	200

Family and SWL providers will need to have a permanent presence within the access point they are tendering for.

Tenders to deliver SWL and Family services in the North Trafford access point will be preferred from providers who can deliver a service in Partington.

5. Budget

Current spend in Family Legal Help 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

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)	7	899	112
Family (private)	8		289
Debt	2	509	7
Housing	3	693	220
Welfare Benefits	2	393	0
Employment	1	100	0
Community Care	1	46	9

		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
Solicitor	8	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	1
NFP	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0