

Procurement Plan for Wandsworth

Procurement Summary

1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for approximately **910** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Wandsworth. There is relatively good access to both public and private Family services although volumes are often low. We will therefore invite providers to bid under **Service Specification A** but will set the minimum NMS requirement at **50** to ensure continued access to services.

- 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 **50** Legal Help cases per year 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 & Housing (Combined Service)

We will set aside a proportion of the available NMS in Housing for providers wishing to deliver a combined Housing and Family service.

There has previously been significant demand for this service combination in the PA. We will therefore make **600** NMS in Housing available for 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** NMS in Housing per schedule year.

3. Social Welfare Law Services

We intend to invite tenders for approximately **2,630** NMS across the core Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **100** NMS in Community Care and **100** NMS in Employment. Client access to services across SWL is currently good and we wish to maintain good access to a full range of services for clients. We will invite these bids under **Service Specification A**.

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 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.
- 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 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.

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
Wandsworth	510	1,060	1,060

4. Access

There are no potential access issues within Wandsworth as the area is geographically small and good public transport links are available across the whole of the PA. Therefore, no criteria will be used to select providers on the basis of their location and providers will only be required to have a permanent presence within the PA.

5. Budget

Current spend in this area is lower than that which we would expect to spend in Family Legal Help according to the Indicative Spend Budget Model. Therefore, the total number of NMS available in this area will be increased 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)	6	826	390
Family (private)	9		293
Debt	3	568	2
Housing	8	1,944	325
Welfare Benefits	5	1,077	1
Employment	1	45	0
Community Care	1	49	14

	Total providers	Current SWL Services						Current Family Services	
		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	11	0	0	0	1	3	3	6	3
NFP	8	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0