

## Procurement Plan for City of Wolverhampton

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### Procurement Summary

#### 1. Family Services

We intend to invite bids for **1,660** new matter starts (NMS) for the provision of face-to-face Family advice within the procurement area (PA) of Wolverhampton.

Clients currently have a good level of access to the full range of Family services within the area and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. We wish to maintain a good level of access to the full range of Family services and will invite bids under **Service Specification A**.

- Providers will be required to deliver the full breadth of Family cases across both public **and** private family law.
- Providers will be required to undertake a **minimum of 100** Legal Help cases per year **and** at least **5** certificated cases in public law children work.
- Providers will be required to have a permanent presence in the PA.

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 Services)

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

There has not previously been demand for this service combination within the procurement area and we intend to invite bids for **100** 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 bids for **1,710** NMS across the Social Welfare Law (SWL) categories of Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits advice, **100** NMS in Community Care and **270** NMS in Employment.

In this area clients currently have a good level of access across the SWL categories and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case. To maintain client access to services we will invite tenders under **Service Specification A**.

Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits 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 Housing, Debt 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.
- Providers delivering Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits are 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.
- As SWL tenders are invited under **Service Specification A**, we will require providers to employ an authorised litigator in order to conduct Housing and/or Community Care.

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
Wolverhampton	720	350	640

#### 4. Access

There are no access issues within the City of Wolverhampton PA, as it is an urban area with good public transport links across it. The City of Wolverhampton is also bordered by the procurement areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Walsall and there is likely to be some client travel across the boundaries. Because of this, no criteria will be used to select providers on the basis of their location within the area. Providers will only be required to have a permanent presence within the PA.

#### 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

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## 6. Current Supply (September 2008 to August 2009)

Category	No. of Providers	NMS opened	Certificates issued
Family (public)	10	1841	629
Family (private)	11		501
Debt	1	872	0
Housing	1	361	13
Welfare Benefits	1	708	0
Employment	1	364	0
Community Care	1	30	3

	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>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NFP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>