



DIRECT PAYMENTS PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FEBRUARY 1ST 2017

ATTENDEES

NL
MB
DV
YC
MN
YK
AS
JH
LT
VLM
SW

Stacey Lamb – speaker from Bar Pro Former
Joseph Healey – DASL
Seán McGovern – DASL

Joseph Healy opened the meeting and announced the **ILCP Open Day on 26th April** specifically aimed at disabled people. There will be further information to follow.

Joseph mentioned articles in both the **South Lambeth Press** and **Guardian** that featured the precarious state of **social care and support** throughout the country. The **Guardian** reported that some councils may be forced to discontinue offering **social care and support services** due to a lack of funds; this despite them breaking the law.

Joseph distributed a list of **Community Care Lawyers** operating in the **Lambeth** area, and then introduced our guest speaker, **Stacey Lamb**. **Stacey** is from an organisation called the **Bar Pro Bono Unit**; this organisation is like a clearing house for those unable to access Legal Aid or legal advice; and will explain the work carried out by the unit.

The Bar Pro Bono Unit

The **Bar Pro Bono Unit** is the **Bar's** national charity that makes it possible for **barristers** to balance a dedicated practice with making a significant contribution to the community. We match members of the public who need help with **barristers** who are willing to donate their time and expertise in deserving cases for those who are unable to obtain **legal aid** and cannot afford to pay.

The **Unit** is an application based service which members of the public can access via referral from advice agencies, law centres, or their local MP.

The Unit ensures that in each case, the barrister providing assistance is of the same expertise and experience as would be expected in a paying case. Every application is subject to the same rigorous procedure of checking, reviewing, communicating with the applicant, allocating to a barrister where appropriate and closing down once the work is complete.

We are the sole pro bono charity to provide legal assistance in all areas of law, across all levels from tribunal through to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Over **3600 barristers** including a third of all **QC's** have committed to take on **pro bono cases** on behalf of our applicants.

We do not seek any public funding and the source of our funding is almost entirely through the **Bar**.

History

The Bar Pro Bono Unit was established in **1996 by Peter Goldsmith QC**, with **350 panel members** and premises in **Gray's Inn**.

In the first year the Unit was awarded the **Silver Medal at The Lawyer/HIFAL Awards** and by **1998** the **Unit's** coverage reached **50 areas of law**. By the **year 2000** the number of **panel members** exceeded **1000** and the **Bar** in the **Community** scheme was established.

2004 saw the **Unit** relocate to bespoke premises at **High Holborn**, with the **Free Representation Unit (FRU)** alongside. The same year the **Unit** hosted the first "**Early Bird**" **plenary seminar** on **pro bono** work held at the **Bar Conference** and hosted by the **Vice Chairman of the Bar**.

The **Bar Pro Bono Unit** offers legal advice in the following areas of Law, amongst others:

Local Authority
Benefits
Housing
Employment
Education
Personal Injury
Wills
Planning
Public Law...

Bar Pro Bono Unit Contact Details

Want to find out more about what we do? Can we help you? Can you help us? If we haven't answered your questions on our website please:

Call us:

020 7092 3960 (Lines open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM)

Email us:

Enquiries@BarProBono.org.uk or use the contact form at the bottom of the page.

Write to us:

Bar Pro Bono Unit
The National Pro Bono Centre
48 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JF

See more at:

http://www.barprobono.org.uk/contact_us.html#sthash.PCBkKMID.dpuf

It was agreed that Joseph Healy would thank PBB for introducing the Unit to the DASL Direct Payments Peer Support Group

Training

A number of our **Direct Payments** service users have taken up the **PA** training opportunities offered by **TCR Training**. **TCR** offer training funded by **Skills for Care**. This training can range from moving and handling through to food hygiene, from health and safety to working with clients with dementia.

Applications for training must be in by **28th February 2017**; and the training to begin in **March 2017**.

Good News

The rate paid by the **CYPS** is to be raised from **£10.21 per hour** (carer paid at **£8.21 ph**) to **£12.03 per hour** (carer paid at **£9.75 ph**) from **January 1st 2017**. This has been a long time coming and we would like to thank **Councillor Marsha de Cordova** for assisting us in this area.

March Meeting

Seán is going to invite Councillor Jane Pickard, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services, Justin Colman, Director of Children's Services and Sarah McGarry, Financial Officer for Children's Services to the March meeting.

A request was made to invite Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Cabinet Member responsible for Adult Services in Lambeth to the April meeting.