

STILL PROVIDING YOUR LEGAL AID!

by Ian Rathbone, Chair of HCLC

At Hackney Community Law Centre (HCLC) we have experienced cuts in legal aid since April 2013 in many areas of social welfare law including debt, employment, welfare and particularly immigration.

However, that does not deter us from fighting on to preserve access to justice for all the people of Hackney. The reason why Hackney Community Law Centre wants to keep going is that every day, for the past three decades, many confused, scared and desperate people walk through our doors, and they can't afford to pay for legal help and advice. They need help and we are there to provide it.

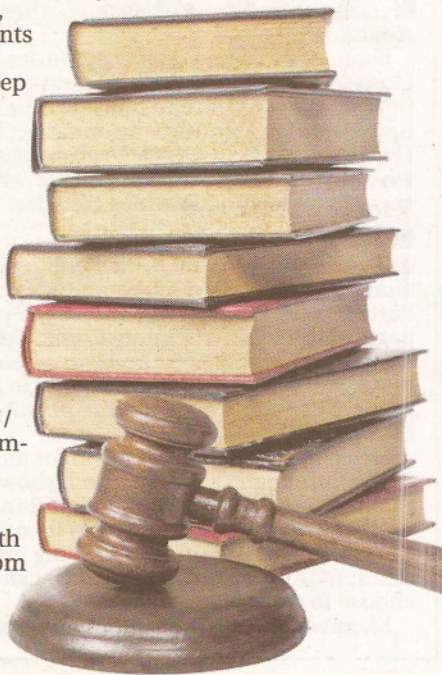
Over the last year we have taken on 52% more cases than the previous year in housing, welfare benefits and debt. This trend is growing ever upwards and in the current climate we believe the number of vulnerable and desperate people seeking our help will only rise further.

We are fund raising and we are looking to build the advice sector in Hackney. With scant resources, the centre relies on local residents volunteering and interested students and interns to help keep things going. We also receive 'pro bono' help from city firms and recently won a national award for our Dalston pop-up advice service run on Tuesday evenings.

We hope to extend such services across the borough, taking legal services to people in the community.

We have placed on the Law centre's website a welfare reform changes page to signpost help for people: <http://www.hclc.org.uk/welfare-reform-changes-2013/>

People can also call our AdviceLine on 020 8985 8364 10am to 1pm Mon to Thurs, with immigration advice 10am to 1pm on Fridays, or you can walk in to the office at 8 Lower Clapton Road E5 0PD between 10am to 5pm Mon to Fri.



"Hackney Unites"
Newspaper, May 2013