



29 May 2017

For Immediate Release

The 7th sponsored Newcastle Legal Walk raises over £3,000 for free local legal help

On Tuesday 16 May, just under 140 lawyers, advisors and other legal professionals joined forces for a sponsored walk through the sights of Newcastle to raise over £3,000 to support free legal advice in Newcastle and throughout the North East.

Under the banner 'Supporting access to justice in the East' 18 teams of walkers from law firms, barristers' chambers as well as the voluntary and advice sector came together to raise funds for the North East Legal Support Trust (NELST) and other local free legal advice charities. Walkers were joined by Lead Walkers Hugh Welch, Senior Partner at Muckle LLP, Kevin Robertson, Head of Office at Bond Dickinson, David Gray, Co- founder of the North East Legal Support Trust, Alex Maine, Chair of LAGLA North East and Michelle Fleming, Chair of JLD Newcastle & North East.

North Eastern Legal Support Trust
020 7092 3973 www.nelst.org.uk enquiries@nelst.org.uk

The Access to Justice Foundation is a company limited by guarantee (no. 6714178), and a registered charity (no. 1126147). Our registered offices are at 20-22 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JS.



The 10km route meandered along the river and through the city's sights, giving many walkers the chance to see a new side of the city. The weather was windy but dry; a perfect spring evening to stride out and raise money for a vital cause.

Walkers taking part fundraised for the cause by seeking sponsorship. The event was also supported by CILEX.

Alongside some well-deserved refreshments walkers were welcomed back by the lead walkers who spoke about the growing importance of continuing free legal advice and support for the sector and the vulnerable individuals who rely on such services.

Hugh Welch, Senior Partner at Muckle LLP, said: "We are absolutely delighted to support the fundraising efforts of NELST. As a responsible North East-based business, it is vitally important we continue to support the great work of the Trust and help less fortunate people and charities in our local community gain access to legal services."

The event is run by the North East Legal Support Trust (NELST). Formed in 2010, NELST raises and distributes funds to support the provision of free legal advice in Newcastle and throughout North East to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. It is part of a network of Legal Support Trusts, working with the Access to Justice Foundation, which facilitate access to specialist legal advice for the poorest and most vulnerable people in the community.

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The organisations supported by the event make a huge difference in the lives of many people. The recent cuts to civil legal aid have not only affected the legal profession, but have also drastically impacted the services provided to members of the public.

The North East Law Centre (NELC) is a local charity which provides a range of free legal advice and support in and around Newcastle, helping some of the city's most vulnerable citizens who often seek out their services as a desperate last resort. In addition to using the Newcastle Legal Walk to fundraise directly to support their work, NELC also benefit from grant funding from the NELST and with services as stretched and under resourced as they are in the advice sector, every little bit of funding really can have a huge impact.

Cuts to legal aid and local government funding of advice services means charities such as these are fighting to survive. Some organisations have merged, meaning already tight resources are being stretched over greater distances. Other organisations have ceased to provide services altogether.

More information about the NELST and Newcastle Legal Walk, including all the pictures from the event can be found on the NELST website at www.nelst.co.uk/norwich-legal-walk.

You can find the event on [Facebook](#) or by using the hashtag #legalwalk, you can also follow the Trust on Twitter @NorthEastLST.

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Notes

- The North East Legal Support Trust (the Trust) is part of a nationwide group of 8 other Regional Legal Support Trusts set up under the guidance of the Access to Justice Foundation across England and Wales to support the provision of pro bono legal advice through grants, fund raising and other help.
- The Newcastle Legal Walk is a sponsored event which engages the local legal profession, advice sector and public in promoting access to justice. More information can be found at <http://nelst.weebly.com/newcastle-legal-walk.html>
- For more information about the Access to Justice Foundation see its website at <http://www.atjf.org.uk/> or contact Laura Cassidy by email lauracassidy@atjf.org.uk or phone 020 7092 3973.
- For more information about the North East Legal Support Trust see its website at <http://www.nelst.org.uk> or contact the Trust by email enquiries@nelst.org.uk.

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