



Derbyshire

Law Centre

1. Core objectives / services

- Free legal advice & representation to individuals & families on low and unstable incomes across North East Derbyshire district.
- Specialise in social welfare law: community care, debt, discrimination, employment, housing, homelessness, immigration, mortgage rescue and tackling hate and harassment.
- Representation Chesterfield County court duty scheme.
- Working & promoting other advice agencies.
- Referrals from advice, public & voluntary sector.

2. With NEDDC core funding,

the Law Centre has levered in additional monies for the benefit of North East Derbyshire's residents. For example:

• Legal Aid	£69,911
• Big Lottery Fund	£19,482
• Access to Justice	£ 7,500
• EMMA	£65,504
• Growth Accelerator	£ 1,822
• Comic Relief	£10,042
• Heritage Lottery Fund	£27,900
• Police and Crime Commissioner Fund	£24,092
Total amount:	£226,253

It is hoped that we will also be able to lever in further funding from D2N2, SCR & other projects from April 16.



3. Serving the communities of North East Derbyshire district

- Our main office: 1 Rose Hill East, Chesterfield
- Branch offices at: Bolsover, Buxton, Chesterfield, Ilkeston, Matlock, Ripley and Staveley
- Home visits at clients' homes or their preferred choice e.g. hospitals.

We also deliver a daily:

- Generic telephone advice service,
- Consultancy advice service in community care, debt, employment, housing and immigration.



4. Where do our residents live?

In the past year we have, across Derbyshire:

- Welcomed and signposted 6542 people at the shared premises
- Advised 4302 callers
- Assisted and represented 1071 cases.

For North East Derbyshire district, we have

- Advised 818 residents and
- Assisted & represented 379 clients.



5. Where do our residents live?

Enquiries - top three areas:

1st – Grassmoor and North Wingfield areas

2nd – Clay Cross (north and south) areas

3rd – Eckington areas

Cases - top three areas:

1st – Grassmoor and North Wingfield areas

2nd – Clay Cross (north and south) areas

3rd – Eckington areas

6. Top 3 issues why North East Derbyshire's residents use Law Centre's services

1. Preventing homelessness

- Housing and homelessness advice, casework and representation service
- County Court Duty Scheme

2. Housing-related debt

- Rent and mortgage arrears (prevention of homelessness)
- Mortgage Rescue work

3. Employment

- Advice on right and staying in work
- Advice on dismissals & redundancies - securing wages



7. Advice & representation service saves Council's resources

- Each time the Law Centre delay or prevent homelessness (rented and mortgaged properties) we save NEDDC £5000 (NEDDC's research)
- Early intervention with employment advice (where there is no longer any legal aid) we keep people employed and the local economy going.

8. We do not just deliver advice, we also educate

- Home for Good project was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund

<http://socialhousinghistory.org.uk>

- We explored the history and heritage of social housing in North Eastern Derbyshire through oral history, photographs, documents and objects contributed by local people.
- 12 volunteers assisted in recording, typing oral and written histories, archiving, developing displays, etc.
- 26 local people were contributors to this project through being filmed, recorded and providing written histories.

9. What's is also available for North East Derbyshire's residents in 2016/17 onwards?

With core funding from NEDDC, the Law Centre has secured funding for:

A team of personal navigators or paid buddies to support those who:

- Are minutes away from being evicted and need 1-2-1 intensive after court support to get their lives back on track,
- Need 1-2-1 support in managing their debts and increasing incomes,
- Need a care package in order to volunteer and / or work
- First language is not English to access mainstream services.

In addition North East Derbyshire's

- Disabled residents will be able to benefit from getting advice from a full time solicitor in securing a social care package
- Refugees will be able to get advice.



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