

A message from Nick Gallagher, CEO

As I near the end of my time at the PSU, I have been reflecting on how much our wonderful staff, volunteers and supporters have achieved in the last three years.

By the end of July, with the opening of a satellite service in Southend, we will have PSU offices in 24 locations in 19 cities, double the number of only three years ago. We are providing help on 70% more occasions, on average, than at this point in 2015. Our fundraising income will have gone from £942,000 in 2014/15 to an expected £1,241,000 in 2018/19. The cost of helping a Litigant in Person is now slightly lower than it was three years ago.

We are proud to have coped with the additional demand for our services without any decrease in the quality: 96% of clients remain completely satisfied with the service they receive and 99% feel better prepared.

I must extend my thanks to all our supporters, volunteers and staff who have helped the PSU grow as an organisation in terms of size, influence and reach. Most importantly, we are helping more people than ever before: individual women and men facing, alone, potentially life-changing proceedings at court.

I look forward to welcoming our new CEO, Eileen Pereira, on the 1st August and wish her good fortune as she takes the helm of this amazing charity.

With best wishes,



Nick Gallagher, CEO



Our upcoming events

Visit: www.thepsu.org/events

Contact: events@thepsu.org.uk

The Newcastle Pub Quiz, 7 August, 7-10pm

Bring your friends and family to the Head of Steam and get involved! We will also be hosting a raffle. Tickets are £4 and available online

The Future of the Family Division, 19 October, 8-10:30am

Join us for breakfast at the Law Society and listen to Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division, and Sir Andrew McFarlane, the incoming President. A panel discussion will follow their speeches. Tickets are £35 and available online

Music to Soothe the Soul, 21 October, 6-9pm

Join musical theatre stars: Anna-Jane Casey, Ben Lewis, Vivian Carter, Amara Okereke and a surprise guest in an evening of joyous song at the Actors Church in Covent Garden. Tickets are £35 and available online

An evening with Richard Coles, 27 February 2019

Musician, journalist and Church of England priest, Reverend Richard Coles will share tales from his life in a very special evening at King's College London. Register your interest online



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Joanne was living in a safe house with her daughter when she came to see us

Joanne needed help to obtain a court order that would prevent her violent ex-partner from having any contact with her or her child.

Our experienced volunteer discussed what she needed and helped her get her story down on paper. Joanne was extremely nervous; she found it hard to discuss such a personal and difficult experience, but our volunteer gave her the confidence to get her application ready to submit to the court.

Joanne needed to attend a hearing: we were able to help her prepare, to know what she wanted to say in court and how the hearing would work. Seemingly small details, like how to address the judge, are important to ensure that our clients feel confident and prepared.

“Without the PSU’s support, I wouldn’t have been able to go through with this.”

Our volunteer went with Joanne to her hearing, to provide moral support as she said what she had planned. Joanne was successful in obtaining a non-molestation order, protecting her and her daughter from further violence and abuse.

Names have been changed for confidentiality



PSU volunteers help people in very stressed situations

New PSU to open in Southend-on-Sea

We are pleased to announce that a new part-time satellite service will begin in Southend-on-Sea increasing our reach to people facing court alone in Essex.

Our research showed that due to a lack of provision, our Chelmsford service supported a high number of clients from Southend-on-Sea who have called, emailed, and attended in person to get support. Having successfully piloted the Southend-on-Sea service in April 2018, we are opening the service on a part-time basis (1 day per week) at Southend County and Family Court.

We will initially have two volunteers delivering the service who will provide practical and emotional support to those without legal representation. We envisage supporting between 5 - 10 clients per week at first (approximately 300 sessions of support per year) and will increase hours as demand increases.

We’ve been welcomed by the judiciary, court staff and local organisations; it will make a real difference for LIPs in the area

For more information, or if you’re interested in supporting, or volunteering at, the Southend-on-Sea PSU, please contact Manager Emma Spiers on chelmsford@thepsu.org.uk or 01245 245 527



Volunteers at Chelmsford PSU



How you can help

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