

SARAH HAYLE

Advice Services Manager
Community Law Service

Community Law Service

- A specialist casework service and representation at court / tribunal in the following areas of law:
 - Welfare Benefits
 - Debt
 - Housing
 - Energy Advice
 - Immigration (fee paying only)
- Training programme
- Factsheets available from website

Community Law Service

- Head office:
 - 49-53 Hazelwood Road
 - Northampton
 - NN1 1LG
 - 01604 621038 (phones open 10am-2pm M-T and 10-1 F)
 - enquiries@communitylawservice.org.uk
 - www.communitylawservice.org.uk

Community Law Service – other offices

- Wellingborough:
 - FISH 2a Cambridge Street Wellingborough
 - 01933 278248 (phones open 10am-3pm M-T and 10-1 F)
- Rushden:
 - 32 High Street Rushden
 - 01933 313020 (phones open 10am – 2pm M-T and 9.30-12.30 F)

Our Funders

- Legal Aid Agency
- The Money Advice Service
- Northampton Borough Council
- East Northamptonshire Council
- The British Gas Energy Trust
- Children in Need
- National Grid's Warm Homes Fund
- Greenstar Energy

Service Delivery

- Drop in advice sessions
- Office appointments
- Home visits
- Hospital visits
- Some GP surgeries (Greenview Surgery, Maple Access Practice, Leicester Terrace Health Care Centre, Abbey Medical Centre - Wellingborough)
- CMHTs, Berrywood Hospital
- Telephone/email advice

Key Achievements 2017/18

- 32,742 people provided with advice & information
- 10,078 people provided with a full casework service
- £29 million debt handled
- £12 million additional benefits claimed

How to Contact/Refer to us

- Via website:

www.communitylawservice.org.uk

- Telephone (01604 621038)

- Fax (01604 232412)

- email

enquiries@communitylawservice.org.uk

Personal Independence Payment

- ‘Disability Benefit’
- Long term conditions (12 months +)
- Claimants under pension age
- Non means tested/not National Insurance based
- Replaced Disability Living Allowance for claimants aged 16-64 on 8/4/2013

Personal Independence Payment

- 2 components each with 2 different rates:
 - Daily Living Component (£58.70/£87.65 p/w)
 - Mobility Component (£23.20/£61.20 p/w)
- Point scoring assessment
- Decisions can be challenged

Carers Allowance

- Allowance for carers providing care:
 - At least 35 hours a week care provided
 - Not earning £123 p/w or above
 - Caring for severely disabled person
 - Not full time student
 - £66.15 p/w
 - Overlaps with some income

Universal Credit

- ‘New’ benefit replacing all working age means tested benefits
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Income related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income based Jobseeker’s Allowance
 - Tax Credits

Universal Credit

- Online account
- Monthly payments
- Money includes
 - both members of couple,
 - dependent children
 - Rent liability
 - Extra amounts due to caring/limited capacity for work

Universal Credit

- Migration currently “voluntary”
- No protection from lower payments
- By 2023, migration from legacy benefits to Universal Credit completed

Council Tax Exemption

- **Severe mental impairment**
 - Permanent and severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning
 - Medical certification of the above
 - Receives a qualifying benefit (most commonly Personal Independence Payment daily living or ESA)
- **Carer**
 - Providing 35 hours a week care to person on qualifying benefit
 - Living with cared for (but not partner or parent if under 18)

Employment and Support Allowance

- Two types – contribution based and income related
- “Limited capability for work”
- DWP own assessment
 - Work related activity group
 - Support group
- Some claimants subject to 365 days of benefit only

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Any questions?

Thank you for listening!