

JOIN THE LAW CENTRE MOVEMENT.



INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEER APPLICANTS



Grŵp Llywio
Canolfan Gyfraith y Gogledd
North Wales Law Centre
Steering Group

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is for anyone interested in volunteering with the North Wales Law Centre Steering Group.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of a successful Law Centre. Without their involvement we cannot represent our communities or be guided to those in most urgent need.



We have included an explanation of the purpose of a Law Centre, why this is crucial for North Wales, and the steps we're taking to make it a reality.

In the future we will have a wide range of roles available but want to walk before we run so our first focus is the Digital Ambassador role. We anticipate that this guide and our volunteer opportunities will grow as the project develops.

BECOME OUR DIGITAL AMBASSADOR

Are you driven by social justice? Do you want to fight for fairness and equality for all? Do you have a flair for social media and want to use your skills for a cause you care about? Let's team up!

A Law Centre is launching in North Wales this year to help make sure everyone has a fair chance to seek justice. Law Centres use the law as a tool to tackle poverty and inequality. We will provide free legal advice and representation for people with housing difficulties and people experiencing domestic abuse.

Digital Ambassadors will help grow our movement and be the online face of the Law Centre. You could have the chance to create content for our website, digital newsletter, LinkedIn and Twitter. We want to explore opportunities on other platforms over time as well (think Facebook, TikTok and Instagram). If you're someone who is imaginative, social, and cares about others, then this opportunity is perfect for you!

Benefits & Perks:

- Full training and individual support to inspire you to create.
- Be part of history! There hasn't been a Law Centre in North Wales since the 1970s and you could be part of creating one from scratch.
- Be proud to be a part of a movement – the cost-of-living crisis means Law Centres are needed now more than ever.
- Watch your creativity inspire the community.
- Grow an online presence that reflects the people we serve.

Skills Required:

This is a wish list – no one will have all these skills. Get in touch if you feel you reflect just one or if you're just really excited about the idea of a Law Centre in your backyard.

- Experience of running a Facebook page or similar for a community group.
- Great computer skills (think basic video editing, photoshop and the like).
- A passion for challenging inequality.
- An understanding of the issues faced by people.
- A warm and friendly personality to reach out to people from different backgrounds.
- Speak Welsh.
- Some lived experience of the kinds of issues our clients might face.
- Flexibility to work independently or as part of a team.

How to apply:

Please send a copy of your CV along with a brief letter outlining what attracts you to this opportunity and our project, to recruitment@nwlctestering.org.uk.

OUR ORGANISATION

You will be joining our organisation at an exciting and transformative time.

We are currently in our Development Phase and this is our structure:



Our Volunteer Team are at the heart of everything we do. Whilst the legal team will deliver expert legal advice, we need volunteers to form the firm foundation from which to grow. They represent the community we serve and ensure we have a clear direction.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN NORTH WALES

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JUSTICE IN WALES FOR THE PEOPLE OF WALES

The report of the Commission on Justice in Wales, published in October 2019, found that "the people of Wales were being let down by the system in its current state". It found:

"The significant cuts to legal aid made in 2012 have hit Wales hard. Proper access to justice is not available with the consequent threat to the rule of law."

"In Wales, many areas have become advice deserts - with clients having long distances to reach their nearest solicitor."

Jonathan Davies, Head of Wales for the Law Society, Responding to the publication of the Commission on Justice for Wales.

The review of the justice system by the Commission was the first in 200 years and set a long-term vision for its future. It identified a need for a mixed economy of legal aid, third sector and pro bono advice and assistance.

We believe that a Law Centre is an essential part of this mixed economy.

THE LAW CENTRE MOVEMENT

LAW CENTRES HAVE EXISTED SINCE THE EARLY 1970S AND WORK WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO DEFEND THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF LOCAL PEOPLE.



Specialising in social welfare law, they have an in-depth knowledge of the issues communities face. They use this knowledge to help people save their homes, keep their jobs and protect their families.

ABOVE ALL, LAW CENTRES EXIST TO IMPROVE THE DAILY LIVES OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY WORK IN.

Law Centres offer legal advice, casework and representation to individuals and groups. Spotting local trends and issues in the course of their work, they highlight them to bring about necessary policy changes and to prevent future problems. Law Centres also help build capacity within communities by training and supporting local groups and educating people about the law and their rights.

OUR PROGRESS

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THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE PROJECT'S INCEPTION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EXECUTION.

2018 A group of practicing lawyers and advice workers, from North Wales and across the UK, meet on a trip to Snowdonia and discuss access to justice in the region.

2019-2021 Law Centres Network provide seed funding to explore developing provision in North Wales. The Steering Group forms and meets remotely to discuss what a Law Centre in North Wales might look like and how to make it happen.

2022 The Steering Group is awarded funding for a 1-year Development Phase. The Development Manager is recruited. We are awarded significant grants to launch the Law Centre and part-fund the first three years.

2023 We apply for our first Legal Aid contract, the Solicitors Quality Mark, and begin recruiting our team ready to open our doors in Summer 2023.

CANOLFAN CYFRAITH NEWYDD AR GYFER GOGLEDD CYMRU

In response to our research and the needs we've identified, our Law Centre will initially provide specialist legal advice in housing and domestic abuse matters.

Our delivery model includes in-person and digital outreach services in rural locations across North Wales.

Working in partnership our caseworkers and solicitors will provide as seamless a service as possible, developing skills and experience across relevant areas of law. The service will be available to people across North Wales, and respond to the particular needs we see in the community as the service develops.

The Law Centre shares a building with Aberconwy Domestic Abuse Service, an established, welcoming and well equipped space in a strategic location.

Basing outreach work within trusted community spaces such as foodbanks and libraries ensures we are firmly rooted in communities we serve.





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Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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