



## **Background Information**

- Hackney Community Law Centre in 1976 to provide a free specialist legal service to meet the legal advice needs of local people who were disadvantaged through poverty or access to the law.
- Over the years the service has changed considerably and the Law Centre currently has a contract from the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) to provide legal advice and assistance in housing and immigration.
- We are based in Hackney Central which is an area of cultural diversity and significant social deprivation.
- We provide volunteer training opportunities for students interested in placements as part of their learning.
- We are a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.
- We are committed to providing a high quality service to all our clients.

## **Social Welfare Unit**

The social welfare unit is based at 8 Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD. There are currently 2 housing solicitors, 2 immigration solicitors, 2 welfare benefits caseworkers and a team of paralegals.

Our clients come from mainly Hackney and surrounding areas. Our client base is from many different ethnic backgrounds and a significant number do not speak English. As with any legal practice based in inner city areas, many of our clients suffer social deprivation and have suffered traumatic experiences in the past. A significant proportion of our clients are vulnerable because of youth, disability or mental health problems.

All those new to the firm are provided with induction to our office systems and our Clio, web-based computerised case management system.