

# 2023-24

## Impact Report

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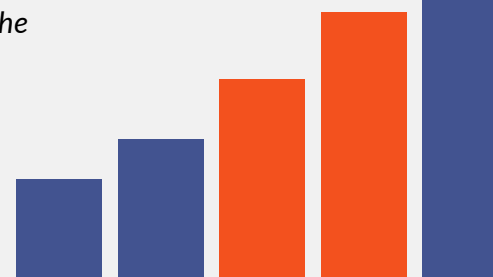




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*Note: Clients' names have been changed in all case studies included and the client images used are of models and not the individuals concerned.*



# WELCOME

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year, we proudly begin to mark nearly half a century of South West London Law Centres, a legacy originating from our first centre in Balham, Wandsworth, in June 1974. Our resilience and commitment to championing social justice have established us as leaders in our sector and trusted partners in the community.

Over these years, we have supported hundreds of thousands of individuals, helping people navigate everyday and life-changing issues. This past year alone, 5,868 people benefited directly from our support. While issues such as poor housing, employment injustices, precarious immigration status, and benefit errors remain pressing, our ongoing work highlights the continuing relevance and necessity of our services.

From our roots in Balham, expanding through Wandsworth and Merton, and growing into today's presence across six boroughs, our approach has always been collaborative. Listening, learning, and adapting remain central to how we engage with our communities. Our Community Justice Network, temporary accommodation forums, outreach programmes, and community webinars all reflect this approach, ensuring our services continue to meet evolving local needs.

Our experience shows clearly that addressing poverty and inequality requires sustained effort, frontline services, and effective advocacy for policy change. The National Audit Office's 2024 report highlights the ongoing need to improve legal aid funding. While we welcome recent proposals following the Review of Civil Legal Aid, there remains significant progress to be made.

We are actively developing our supporter base to ensure our financial sustainability and ability to deliver comprehensive legal services—from pro bono clinics to extensive casework and representation. Our funders, donors, and supporters are essential to this mission, enabling us to offer wide-ranging and impactful services.

This year has seen important transitions within our team. Allan Blake stepped down after six impactful years as Chair, guiding us effectively through significant challenges. Stacey Edgar moved on from Deputy CEO to lead Southwark Law Centre, after many years of enhancing our internal operations and external partnerships. Leena Jangra left our housing team after 14 dedicated years. We deeply thank them all for their contributions and wish them success in their new roles.

Our achievements are made possible by an incredible community of staff, volunteers, trustees, and pro bono partners. We look forward to reconnecting and celebrating their hard work and commitment in the coming year. As we approach 50 years, we renew our commitment to leading with innovation, advocacy, and meaningful community service. Together, we are stronger, united by our shared vision for justice, equality, and lasting change.

Thank you all for your continued support and belief in our work.

Warm regards,



**Patrick Marples,**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# Our Work

## OVERVIEW



In 2023/24, we supported **5,868** clients with direct legal advice and representation, and triaged a further **4,800** enquiries through our front-line systems.

While demand remains high, reduced funding and the loss of some court duty schemes affected our overall capacity. Alongside our legal aid work, we continued to deliver targeted projects that help address problems early and reach those most in need.

### FULL SPECIALIST CASEWORK SERVICE

IN A BROAD RANGE OF SOCIAL WELFARE LAW

We proudly offer a comprehensive specialist casework service across a diverse spectrum of social welfare law, encompassing community care, debt, discrimination, employment, housing, immigration and asylum, public law, and welfare rights – collectively referred to as 'Social Welfare Law.'

### EMERGENCY COURT REPRESENTATION

ACROSS WANDSWORTH AND KINGSTON

We provide emergency housing representation for same-day hearings, preventing possession and evictions in rental and mortgage cases.

### OUR VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAMME

PRO BONO ADVICE IN RANGE OF LEGAL SUBJECTS

We have been running remote clinics since March 2020, covering various legal subjects. Our timely and accurate legal advice prevents issues from worsening and benefits individuals and taxpayers. These clinics empower clients with legal knowledge, boosting their confidence and capacity to address problems. Our advice also enhances the efficiency of public services.

### CRISIS NAVIGATION

THROUGH OUR COST OF LIVING PROJECT

We help stabilise vulnerable clients by maximising income through targeted advice and welfare support. Addressing immediate financial hardships with practical interventions tailored to the individual, promoting long-term economic resilience.

### COMMUNITY-LED CAMPAIGNS

DRIVING POLICY CHANGE AND PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

collaborating directly with community groups and the people we serve to ensure we address the root causes of injustice in a holistic manner and drive lasting systemic change. This work also actively shapes our frontline services and strategic direction.





## Employment

We support clients facing a wide range of employment issues – from unfair dismissal and unpaid wages to discrimination and breach of contract. Our legal aid contract allows us to specialise in discrimination cases, helping people stay in work or seek redress where needed.

This year, with two dedicated caseworkers and expanded volunteer support, we advised **655** clients through our employment clinics and worked on **26** in-depth cases. Our partnership with BPP Law School through Employment Law for London continues to grow, offering free 30-minute advice calls to Londoners facing workplace legal problems.

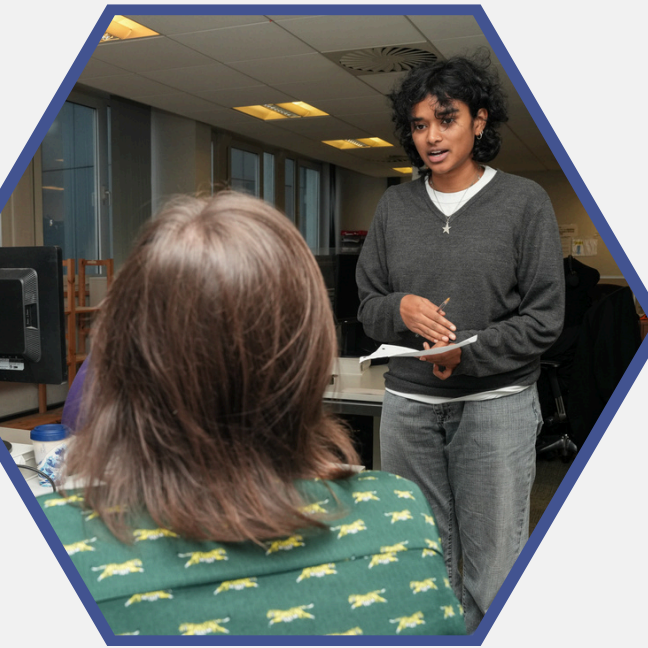
## Tammy's Story



Tammy, a mother of three, was offered a senior fundraising role with a salary of £70,000, only to have the offer rescinded after being inappropriately questioned about her children's ages by the company's Vice President. Following this, the company claimed a hiring freeze, but Tammy suspected gender discrimination based on assumptions about her childcare responsibilities. Devastated, she sought support from our Law Centre, where employment caseworker Sarah Forsyth guided her through a successful gender discrimination claim. The tribunal ruled in Tammy's favour, awarding her £90,000 in compensation, restoring her confidence, and setting a precedent for others facing similar challenges.

*"I was in a state of financial and emotional crisis as I was the main breadwinner for the family... I felt less competitive. I was in a tough situation."*

*"After the verdict, the result was incredible. My original pursuit wasn't just for myself, but to seek justice for other women in similar situations... The burden was lifted."*



## Money Advice

We support individuals facing financial difficulty by offering early intervention, challenging unenforceable debts, and providing guidance on budgeting, grant applications, and affordable repayment options. Our debt team, which is funded through Debt Free London, supported **989** people last year. We continue to see high demand and we saw **790** through our Cost of Living – Welfare Rights team. This project is funded by Debt Free Advice.

## Fara's Story

*Fara, a 51-year-old stroke survivor, lost her social care from Wandsworth Council due to an alleged £21,000 debt, leaving her without essential support. Isolated and fearful of bailiffs, she reached out to our Money Advice Team, where adviser Andrew Boba discovered that the council's actions were unlawful, as they could not withhold care due to debt. With Andrew's guidance, Fara successfully applied for a debt relief order, which cleared her debt and restored her access to necessary care. Today, Fara feels more secure but remains impacted by the trauma of her experience.*



*"What the council did was illegal, they took my care away and left me to suffer on my own. I asked myself: How is this my life? How are the people that are supposed to be helping me, causing panic attacks and seizures that make my health conditions worse."*

*"I felt so much better. I felt relieved. I felt calm. I felt good that someone finally helped remove this burden from me. Andrew's kind support has helped ease my mind. I finally feel like I am safe enough to leave the house and get the medical help I need."*

## Susmita, Client

*"My advisor Lana, is amazing she listened and helped me in every way possible and was very patient which helped as I was suicidal prior to speaking with Lana at SWLLC. I wasn't eating and very mentally unwell. Lana explained my options every step of the way making sure I fully understood my options and have given me the advice tailored to my needs to help me go forward and try to resolve my debts with the help and support I needed to deal with this and without them I would not be here today!!! I am so so grateful for their service they literally saved my life without the service I would not be writing this review today so THANKYOU LANA and SWLLC you do amazing hard work."*



## Cost of Living Project

Our Cost of Living team helps people maximise their income, access the right benefits, and apply for emergency grants. With support from the Lottery Community Fund, London Legal Support Trust, Greater London Authority, Merton Council, and the Wimbledon Guild, the team now includes two Crisis Navigators, two welfare rights caseworkers, and a team leader.

They act as a consistent point of contact for clients facing multiple challenges, secure urgent financial support, and ensure referrals to our specialist advisers are well-coordinated. Alongside this, the team runs webinars, outreach and workshops to support public legal education – giving our communities the tools to build financial resilience and understand their rights.



## Robert's Story

At 67, Robert faced escalating financial hardship as the cost of living rose, complicating his life with disabilities. When an unfair parking fine and conflicting advice from other organizations left him feeling hopeless, he turned to our Law Centre. Robert connected with Ash, a Money Advice caseworker, who created a tailored plan to address his needs and helped him access benefits that increased his income by £16,000 annually. With Ash's guidance, Robert now feels empowered and more secure, with renewed hope for his future.

*"I had seriously started panicking. Even thinking about how I felt back then makes my heart race. I kept thinking, what if the bailiffs came to take my wheelchair? I was stressed... and felt like I had no options."*

*"My first conversation with Ash significantly eased my anxiety. He was incredibly knowledgeable, and it was obvious that he knew what he was doing. Each question I asked had a clear, immediate answer."*

We work with people on a wide range of housing challenges, from possessions and unlawful evictions, to homelessness, disrepair and anti-social behaviour; helping individuals protect or find safe, secure accommodation. We also advocate for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, holding local authorities to account in meeting their statutory housing duties. This year, our team worked on **267** cases and supported **563** clients through the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme; our pro bono clinics providing vital advice to a further **724** people.

## Kiera's Story



At 19, Kiera became homeless after her family rejected her upon learning she was pregnant and bisexual. Faced with threats to her safety and inadequate support from the council, she was left to sleep in unsafe places and experienced severe anxiety. Desperate, she reached out to our Law Centre, where housing solicitors Jeinsen and Florence intervened. They pressed the council to fulfill its legal obligation, securing safe accommodation for Kiera. Today, Kiera lives in secure housing with her newborn, feeling hopeful and safe, thanks to the Law Centre's unwavering support.

*"I had no idea where I was going to go... The fear of not knowing was absolutely crushing... The Law Centre was more than helpful. I wouldn't be where I am today without the law centre, you've been absolutely fantastic."*

## Sarah, Client

*"To be honest, when I went to the law centre they gave me confidence. I felt like I actually had someone who wanted to help me..I would not have managed to get anywhere without the law centres' help."*

*"I am over the moon. I do believe in the end that I will get a place for me and my kids. The stress has been lifted from me. I feel like there is nothing left to get messed up. I am not a bad tenant. I pay my rent."*

*"I feel safe. My mental health has improved. I feel more confident in myself. I feel like a different person. I can close my door at night and know nothing will happen to me anymore. My children and I are finally safe."*



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

### TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION CAMPAIGN

In response to priorities raised by the community, we developed a temporary accommodation project that helps residents understand their rights, take action, and lead change. Through monthly action meetings and quarterly town halls, the project has secured real outcomes – from bidding numbers for hundreds of residents to successful legal challenges and policy influence. It has also enabled people to organise locally, creating a sense of pride, clarity and hope where it was often missing.



### Housing: Court Duty Scheme

In 2023/24 we represented **563** people as part of the Court Duty scheme providing emergency on-the-day representation in Wandsworth and Kingston courts. This helps clients to defend themselves against possession and home evictions in both rented and mortgage cases.

Our duty solicitors have provided emergency legal advice/representation to clients last year in three courts and saved many from eviction often providing pro bono benefit assistance to address underlying issues relating to the benefit cap/bedroom tax.

### Darren's Story

Darren lives alone in a rented property from a social landlord. When the pandemic hit Darren found himself out of work and quickly running into debt. At the time Darren didn't know he could claim help with his rent through Universal Credit. Darren did his best to find work but by the time he claimed universal credit his rent arrears were over £14k.

As a result of his rent arrears Darren's landlord took him to court and with such high arrears he was at a real risk of eviction. Darren attended court and was surprised that he could obtain free advice and representation under the Law Centres county Court duty scheme from Florence and Jeinsen:

*"It was a daunting prospect to represent myself in court and I was grateful for the duty team."*

Darren informed our duty advisers that he had managed to borrow some money to clear down his arrears and that he just wanted the chance to stop his eviction. Darren was hoping to return to work soon and wanted to offer instalments towards his rent. Darren was desperate to save his home but did not know what he could do.

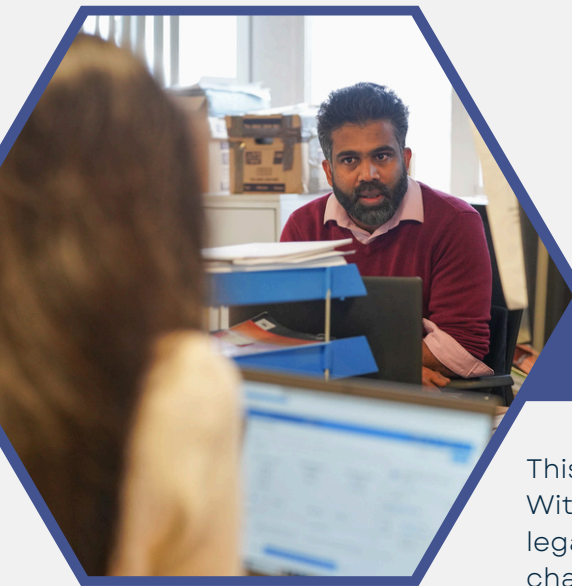
With time running out our duty team managed to quickly negotiate a settlement that would let Darren keep his home on condition he pay an extra amount each week towards his rent arrears. An unexpected bonus was that Darren would not need to borrow thousands and put himself into further debt.

After a short hearing the judge approved the above order. Having been informed that his home was safe Darren had this to say about the emergency help and assistance he received from Florence and Jeinsen.

*"The experience and knowledge of the legal system from my solicitors helped me to be better-informed about my situation and my rights... I am over the moon my eviction has been stopped, and I have full understanding of what I need to do to keep living at my address. Once again thank you for your expertise. 10/10"*







## Immigration and Asylum

This work is focused on enabling clients to obtain Leave to Remain. With this 'gateway' status, they can work and earn an income legally, re-unite with family left behind and maximise their life chances. Many of the people who eventually come to us have failed to have their cases fully dealt with and were exploited by other lawyers. We also worked on the EUSS scheme.

Our small team specialises in dealing with unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and modern slavery, domestic violence and minority groups such as LGBTQ+. We worked on **351** cases. Our pro bono clinics advised **460** people on immigration issues. Through new funding from Surrey County Council we are working with those fleeing domestic violence to resolve their immigration issues, as well as our continued project on supporting those who are homeless in securing their immigration status.

## Harrold's Story



Harrold, facing deportation after a 39-month prison sentence, sought help from our Law Centre and discovered life-changing support. Our immigration solicitor recognized that Harrold was a victim of child trafficking, forced into domestic servitude and denied an education by his family. With careful legal representation, Harrold's appeal was upheld under Articles 3, 4, and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, recognizing the severe risks he faced if deported and the trauma he endured.

Today, Harrold is safe, stable, and optimistic about his future, thanks to the compassionate, dedicated advocacy he received.

"I was in a state of... I had just given up. I had no one to turn to. Before I met Paul, I was really struggling. My personal life was a mess, I was out of money, and on top of that, I was facing deportation. I felt like I had hit rock bottom."

"The challenges I faced were not just legal; they were deeply personal... Today, I am not only in a stable situation but also optimistic about my future—something I couldn't have imagined before SWLLC took on my case."

## Free One-off Legal Advice

Central to SWLLC is our Volunteer Lawyers Programme, supported by **nearly 400** dedicated volunteers. Since transitioning to remote operations in March 2020, we have continued to provide 60 appointments per week through our clinic programme, covering a range of legal subjects from Housing to Immigration. In 2023/2024, our team advised 2,800 individuals, ensuring that everyone, regardless of legal aid eligibility, understands their rights through a one-off advice session with our volunteer lawyers. Feedback suggests our advice paves the way for individuals to overcome hurdles.

An estimate of the value of annual pro bono work provided by evening volunteers is **more than £1.4 million**. This is calculated on the basis that each client (including follow up work and supervision time) can on average take a combined total of 3 hours of volunteer time at £164 per hour.

While remote sessions are largely appreciated, we're exploring ways to reintroduce in-person consultations for greater inclusivity.



## Survey Feedback

"The adviser has been very helpful and understanding, he pointed me in the right direction and allowed me to strengthen my legal case. I am still waiting for some time to pass and after that I will raise the matter to Court, I am sure the chances of a positive outcome have increased since I have spoken with the adviser."

"I just needed some advice regarding a small claim I have submitted. The response helped me have some confidence that I was doing the right thing."

"The questions I was asked were extremely detailed and thorough, I have been really impressed with the details of the advice received."

"I am so grateful for the assistance given to myself and wanted to acknowledge my gratitude for the advice given back in May 2024. A reduction of over £1600 was a very positive "win" for myself and one I would most likely have lost without the help of your Legal Services team."





# Community and Campaigns

## HOW WE SERVE.

At SWLLC, community feedback is the heart of our operations. We prioritise listening, understanding, and responding to the needs of our community. Our dedicated Community Engagement Manager, Rhiannon Hughes (also known as Rhi), plays a pivotal role in coordinating these efforts. Through a diverse array of projects and initiatives, Rhiannon leads the charge in fostering community engagement including: our Temporary Accommodation Project (detailed on page 7), the inception and execution of outreach programs in collaboration with our Cost of Living team, community training and workshops under the banner of "Know Our Rights" to empower individuals, the development of welfare forums, the organisation of social events that bring together community leaders and partner organisations, and the creation of the "Social Justice Network" to enhance our reach and strategic planning.

To join us in our community organising and engagement endeavors, we invite you to reach out to Rhiannon, our Community Manager, at [community@swllc.org](mailto:community@swllc.org) or by calling **0208 208 5757**.

The work we undertake within the realm of community engagement is a fundamental component of our listening and understanding process. It ensures that our responses, driven by innovative initiatives, directly reflect the voices and aspirations of our community members. This year, the feedback from our communities has sparked a strategic aim to expand our community work to include policy and campaign initiatives.



### THE COST OF LIVING PROJECT COMMUNITY VISIBILITY AND ADVICE

**OUTREACH:** Our Cost of Living team actively participates in events at shopping centres, festivals, and community events, setting up spaces in community settings to provide advice and support. We believe in meeting people where they are and making our presence felt where it matters most, ensuring accessibility and direct connections for our community members.

**WEBINARS:** Our free webinars cover a range of topics, including Income Maximisation and Money, Universal Credit, Disability Benefits, Carers and Benefits, and Managing Your Money. These one-hour sessions provide the opportunity to address personal financial questions, ensuring community members gain confidence in managing their finances. As evidenced by a recent survey, 100% of attendees felt more confident in their money management skills after participating in our free money webinars.

**WORKSHOPS:** Our "Know Your Rights" workshops offer essential information on topics like Council Tax and Cost of Living Resources. These sessions empower participants with knowledge to navigate these areas confidently and access critical resources, fostering informed decision-making and advocacy for their rights.

"Members of the community being involved in our work is what makes it so powerful. This year we've seen community members facing injustice leading town hall forums, speaking out in the media and public demonstrations. Caring for the community is about standing shoulder to shoulder with the community to demand justice" Rhi, Community Engagement Manager

# Financial Review

At the conclusion of the fiscal year 2023-24, our financial picture showed a surplus of £48,435. Despite our difficulties we are pleased to have reached this position compared to the deficit in the previous year. Our restricted funds increased by £92,496, while our unrestricted funds decreased by £44,061. The bulk of these funds are held as 'Work In Progress' due from the Legal Aid Agency and are not held as Law Centre cash.

## LEGAL AID CHALLENGES

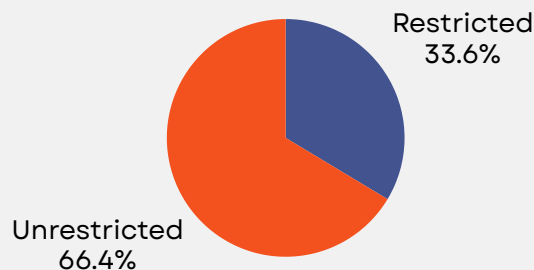
Financially, as for many in this sector, this year has been challenging. Restrictions of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) continue to make it extremely difficult for the Law Centre to operate as fairly and effectively as it should. Legal Aid is now worth less than half of what it was a decade ago in real terms. We continue to find ways to address these difficulties. These include thinking of ways we can further harness the legal profession's support as well as increasing the number of grant-funded projects we can undertake.

## RESERVES AND CASH

Restricted Reserves: £231,651

Unrestricted Reserves: £457,404

**Total: £689,055**



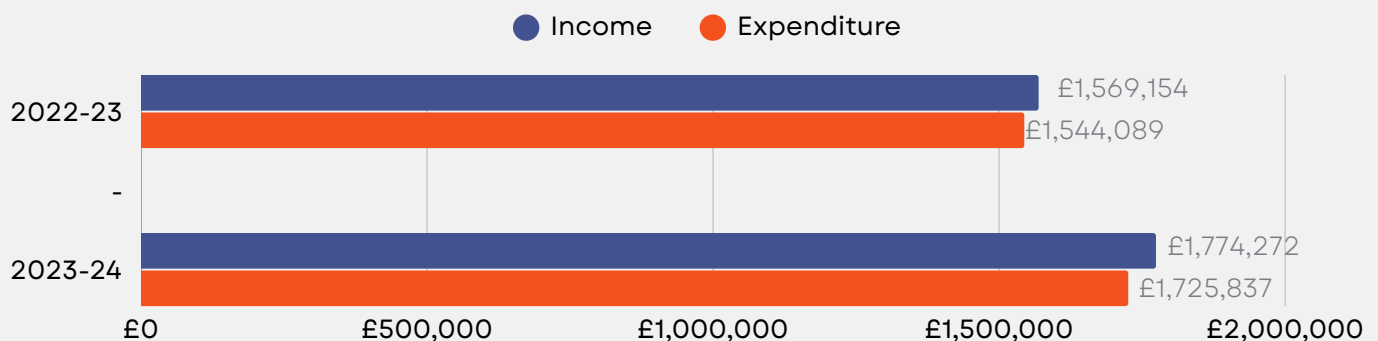
## SOURCES OF FUNDING

In 2023/24, our main source of funding was Grant Income, due to challenges around Legal Aid income. We received funding and grants from:

AB Charitable Trust, Debt Free Advice, Greater London Authority Homeless Immigration Project, Law Centres Network – Propel' Legal Education Foundation, Locality, London Legal Support Trust – (Cost of Living and Surrey), Lottery Community Fund -Crisis Project, London Borough Of Merton, London Borough of Wandsworth (Crisis, EUSS, Rent Subsidy and Cost of Living projects), Merton Giving, Merton Social Prescribers, Surrey County Council, The Access to Justice Foundation, Trust for London (employment and temporary accommodation projects) and Wimbledon Guild.

SWLLC retained a number of donors and corporate sponsors as well as raising funds through various fundraising activities.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



The net result yielded a surplus of £48,435, increasing funds to £689,055. Restricted funds remain at £231,651, and unrestricted funds are now £457,404.

**Full copies of our audited accounts are available on request**

# | Our People



At SWLLC, our strength lies in the dedication and resilience of our people – staff, volunteers, partners and community members – who together uphold our mission to ensure access to justice for all. This year we had a total of 42 staff including 10 solicitors and 19 caseworkers.

Our team played a central role in community-centred initiatives. From our second annual Social Justice Picnic to the launch of our Access to Justice report in Surrey, we've continued to amplify lived experience and advocate for systemic change. We also took part in the London Legal Walk and the Guildford Legal Walk, raising vital funds in support of free legal advice across the region.

We remain committed to developing the future of social welfare law through initiatives like the Justice First Fellowship, supporting fellows like Shanice Danso or Florance Manders, to become the next generation of legal aid solicitors.



## Celebrating Baby Rajitha

A highlight of the year came when our long-serving immigration solicitor, Rajitha Kumar, received a call from a former client who had just given birth – and named her daughter Rajitha, in honour of the life-changing support she once received.



## Volunteer Testimonies

“I think the law centre has helped shape my opinions on what fields of law to enter into and has developed my customer service skills significantly which helped me get my new job.”

“I was able to bolster my CV and in the interview for my job I referenced the work I had done in the law centre and this was very useful. Having obtained real experience in legal practice has been crucial to me finding a job.”

“Pro bono work is invaluable; it forms the backbone of our justice system by ensuring that everyone, regardless of financial means, has access to legal support and representation. It is a vital commitment that I have made and will continue to make to uphold the integrity of our legal system. I believe pro bono work also strengthens the communities we serve, providing hope and a fair chance for those who might otherwise be left without a voice.”

Our volunteers are also at the heart of our work – they make so much of what we do possible. From pro bono lawyers offering vital legal advice, to volunteers supporting reception, drafting letters, or preparing documents, their time and commitment strengthen every part of our service.

The estimated value of our volunteers’ time in **2023/24** includes over **£72,000** from daytime support roles and more than **£1.4 million** in pro bono legal work. These contributions reflect not just hours given, but lives changed – enabling us to reach far more people than core funding alone could sustain.

Additionally, our volunteer clinic continued to run weekly, offering remote and flexible appointments to meet clients where they are, while new roles and partnerships helped expand in-depth casework support. Many of our general volunteers are students or early-career professionals, with several going on to secure legal roles after placements in our immigration and employment teams – often crediting the experience for shaping their skills and confidence.





# | 50 Years of Justice

This year marks 50 years since South West London Law Centres first opened its doors. What began as three centres in Balham, Battersea and Wandsworth grew – through mergers, relocations, closures and rebirths – into one of the UK's largest Law Centres, now serving six south-west London boroughs.

Despite funding cuts, legal aid reforms, and political hostility, we have never wavered in our mission. Every building we've operated from tells a story of determination and the belief that access to justice should not depend on income.

Since merging into a single organisation in 2004, we've supported tens of thousands in our community in dire need of legal support.

To mark this milestone, we gathered with supporters, clients and friends for a special event featuring I. Stephanie Boyce, former President of the Law Society of England and Wales. The evening honoured our past and called for urgent action: to restore legal aid, fund Law Centres properly, and invest in the future of social welfare law.



*Sad faces but a happy ending!*

**\*\* STOP PRESS.** Mrs W. heard on April 23rd 1986 that she had been granted permanent leave to remain in Britain with her children.





# We are here to stay for 50 more.

In our 50th anniversary year we continue to be driven by our strongly held belief that everyone, regardless of income, deserves access to legal advice and representation to pursue justice. Our legacy is that of accessible justice, aiming to support the future of our community with resilience... We are simply proud.

*Our CEO, Patrick Marples, reflects:*

*"It's the collective spirit, the shared commitment to justice, and the countless lives changed for the better that motivate me to continue this fight."*

*And as longtime friend Bob Nightingale puts it:*

*"despite our heavy caseloads, we remained committed to social policy work. Our will and drive are clear... after 50 years, we are here to stay for 50 more."*

Our work has driven significant legislative changes, including advancements in discrimination law and employment rights, illustrating the law's power to effect social change. Alongside our work with advice and representation, we also focus on community empowerment and education, policy change, and amplifying stories and voices to ensure access to justice can be sustainable.

Now, we're focused on building long-term stability: investing in our teams, expanding access, and responding to the needs of our boroughs. The past 50 years have shown what's possible. We're ready for what's next.

Ms S

Ms S and her 4 children lost their home because their landlord was selling the house. They were refused housing by the local authority because, many years before, Ms S had been evicted from a property for rent arrears. After a night in B&B arranged by social services and help from the local police who lent them blankets, Ms S found accommodation with various friends. Ms S sought

## COUNTY COURT DUTY DESK

The Law Centre's housing solicitors help to staff the Wandsworth County Court possession day duty desk where they give advice to Local Authority and Housing Action Trusts.

Other more wide ranging problems have been faced by the tenants of two 12-storey blocks of flats in SW8 which have received a good deal of media coverage following a press conference which we held in conjunction with SHELTER. The tenants feared for their safety after a similar Borough had to be demolished some time ago. It was found to be unsafe. In this case a court order showed that vital steel rods in the walls would bring the buildings down.

We depend on the contribution of around 350 volunteers who join us to get work experience for a couple of weeks; others volunteer regularly for years. We offer opportunities to help our caseworkers to support our caseworkers with suitable qualifications, advice to the public. We give people the time and support themselves and give something back to the community.

If you're willing...

CROYDON'S only centre for people who can't afford legal aid celebrated its 16th birthday this week. The centre is on the "front edge" by legal aid cuts.

Croydon Law Centre has helped people since the 1980s. It no longer gets legal aid, including immigration and housing. Legal aid helps with housing and immigration for people who cannot afford it.

Cuts are putting free law centre on the edge

id new cuts mean that some people will lose their legal aid

A tenant of Wandsworth Council, he was working and paying rent, but he became ill with panic attacks, tremor, claustrophobia, dizziness, etc. He finally became unable to work in Sept 2002 and applied for Invalidity Benefit and Housing Benefit. He faced eviction because a suspended possession order that required him to pay £30 per week towards his rent had been made in 2002.

# Thank you

We are deeply grateful to every individual who makes our work possible—from generous donors and tireless staff, to committed volunteers and partners who connect us to those in need. With your support, we address injustice at its source, not just its symptoms.

Your gift enables more people in our communities to uphold and defend their legal rights and find hope for their future.

**Please visit our website or scan the QR code to make a donation.**



## Giving

- £10** can help a single mother receive initial legal guidance
- £30** can fund a crucial half-hour consultation that could prevent eviction
- £100** enables someone to challenge a wrongful disability benefits decision.



Thank you to all who walk with us—literally and figuratively—in the fight for justice. Your support keeps our doors open and our mission alive.

Patrick Marples, CEO



# Contact Us



020 8767 2777



[enquiries@swllc.org](mailto:enquiries@swllc.org)



[www.swllc.org](http://www.swllc.org)

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