



15 June 2016

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**For Immediate Release**

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**A record breaking year for the Carlisle Legal Walk**

**4th sponsored Carlisle Legal Walk raises over £1,300 for free local legal help**

On Monday 16 May, just over 50 lawyers, advisors and other legal professionals joined forces for a sponsored walk around the sights of Carlisle to raise over £1,300 to support free legal advice in Carlisle and throughout North West England.

Under the banner 'Supporting access to justice in the North West' 10 teams of walkers from law firms, barristers' chambers as well as the voluntary and advice sector came together to raise funds for the North West Legal Support Trust (NWLST) and other local free legal advice charities. Walkers were joined by the **Under Sheriff of Cumbria, Timothy Cartmell** and the **High Sheriff of Cumbria, Rev Richard Lee**.

North West Legal Support Trust  
020 7092 3973 [www.nwlst.org.uk](http://www.nwlst.org.uk) [enquiries@nwlst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nwlst.org.uk)

The North West Legal Support Trust is a company limited by guarantee (No. 6852308) and a registered charity (No. 1131259), registered office c/o Gateley, Ship Canal House, 98 King Street, Manchester M2 4WU.



The 10km route took in the lovely sights the city had to offer, with many walkers remarking they saw a side to the city they hadn't seen before. The weather was beautiful and sunny; a perfect early summer day to stride out and raise money for a vital cause.

Walkers taking part fundraised for the cause by seeking sponsorship and in addition to this the event was supported by sponsors; Paramount Legal Costs Limited who sponsored the welcoming finishing line reception at the Circle Café Bar, gratefully received by thirsty walkers.

Alongside some well-deserved refreshments walkers were welcomed back by the lead walkers who spoke about the growing importance of continuing free legal advice and support for the free legal advice sector and individuals who rely on their services.

The event is run by the North West Legal Support Trust (NWLST). The NWLST was formed in 2010 to raise and distribute funds to support the provision of free legal advice in Carlisle and throughout the North West to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. It is part of a network of Legal Support Trusts, working with the Access to Justice Foundation, to facilitate the access to specialist legal advice for the poorest and most vulnerable people in the community.

The organisations supported by the event make a huge difference in the lives of many people. The recent cuts to civil legal aid have not only affected the legal profession, but have also drastically impacted the services provided to members of the public.

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Cumbria Law Centre is a local charity which provides a range of free legal advice and support in and around Carlisle so some of the city's most vulnerable citizens who often seek their services as a desperate last resort. In addition to using the Carlisle Legal Walk to fundraise directly to support their work, the Cumbria Law Centre have also benefitted from grant funding from the NWLST and when services are as stretched and under resourced as they are in the advice sector, every little bit does make a huge difference.

Cuts to legal aid and local government funding of advice services means charities such as these are fighting to survive. Some organisations have merged, meaning already tight resources are being stretched over greater distances, but more frequently, others have ceased to provide services altogether.

A representative from the NWLST said "We are truly delighted that the Carlisle Legal Walk has had a record breaking year with more people coming out to support access to justice for the most vulnerable and more funds being raised to support the vital services when help these people in their time of need. Thanks to all our walkers, supporters and sponsors the NWLST will be able to make more and larger grants than ever before, ensuring local services benefit from local support.

More information about the NWLST and Carlisle Legal Walk, including all the pictures from the event can be found on the NWLST website at <http://www.nwlst.org.uk/carlisle-legal-walk.html>.

You can find the Trust on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/nwlst>) or by using the hashtag #legalwalk, you can also follow the Trust on Twitter [@nwlst](https://twitter.com/nwlst)

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Notes

- The North West Legal Support Trust (the Trust) is part of a nationwide group of 8 other Regional Legal Support Trusts set up under the guidance of the Access to Justice Foundation across England and Wales to support the provision of pro bono legal advice through grants, fund raising and other help.
- The Carlisle Legal Walk is a sponsored event which engages the local legal profession, advice sector and public in promoting access to justice. More information can be found at <http://www.nwlst.org.uk/carlisle-legal-walk.html>
- For more information about the Access to Justice Foundation see its website at <http://www.atjf.org.uk/> or contact Martha de la Roche by email [marthadelaroch@atjf.org.uk](mailto:marthadelaroch@atjf.org.uk) or phone 020 7092 3973.
- For more information about the North West Legal Support Trust see its website at <http://www.nwlst.org.uk> or contact the Trust by email [enquiries@nwlst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nwlst.org.uk).

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