



20 October 2016

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Liverpool Legal Walk raises over £3,480 for free local legal help**

On Tuesday 4 October, just over 200 lawyers, advisors and other legal professionals joined forces for a sponsored walk across the riverfront sights of Liverpool to raise over £3,480 to support free legal advice in Liverpool and throughout the North West.

Under the banner 'Supporting access to justice in the North West' 33 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 Law Society of England and Wales's Vice President, Joe Egan, the President of the Liverpool Law Society, Alison Lobb, the President of the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division and His Honour Judge Aubrey QC.

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 (company no. 6852308) and a registered charity (charity no. 1131259). It's registered office is at c/o Gateley, Ship Canal House, 98 King Street, Manchester M2 4WU.



The 10km route meandered along the river and through the city's sights, giving many walkers the chance to see a new side of the city. The weather was fine and breezy; a perfect autumn evening to stride out and raise money for a vital cause.

Walkers taking part fundraised for the cause by seeking sponsorship. The event was also supported by sponsors 7 Harrington Street Chambers. A huge thank you goes out to District House who hosted the finishing line reception, which was 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 sector and the vulnerable individuals who rely on such services.

The event is run by the North West Legal Support Trust (NWLST). Formed in 2010, NWLST raises and distributes funds to support the provision of free legal advice in Liverpool 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, which facilitate 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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Cheshire West Citizens Advice Bureau (CWCAB) is a local charity which provides a range of free legal advice and support in and around Liverpool, helping some of the city's most vulnerable citizens who often seek out their services as a desperate last resort. In addition to using the Liverpool Legal Walk to fundraise directly to support their work, CWCAB also benefit from grant funding from the NWLST and with services as stretched and under resourced as they are in the advice sector, every little bit of funding really can have a huge impact.

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. Other organisations have ceased to provide services altogether.

A representative from the NWLST said "We are truly delighted that the Liverpool Legal Walk was such a great event with so many people coming out to support access to justice for the most vulnerable and more funds being raised to support these vital services. Thanks to all our walkers, supporters and sponsors the NWLST will be able to make additional and more significant grants than ever before, ensuring local services benefit from local support.

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

You can find the event 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).

**ENDS**

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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 Liverpool 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/liverpool-legal-walk.html>
- For more information about the Access to Justice Foundation see its website at <http://www.atjf.org.uk/> or contact Laura Cassidy by email [lauracassidy@atjf.org.uk](mailto:lauracassidy@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).