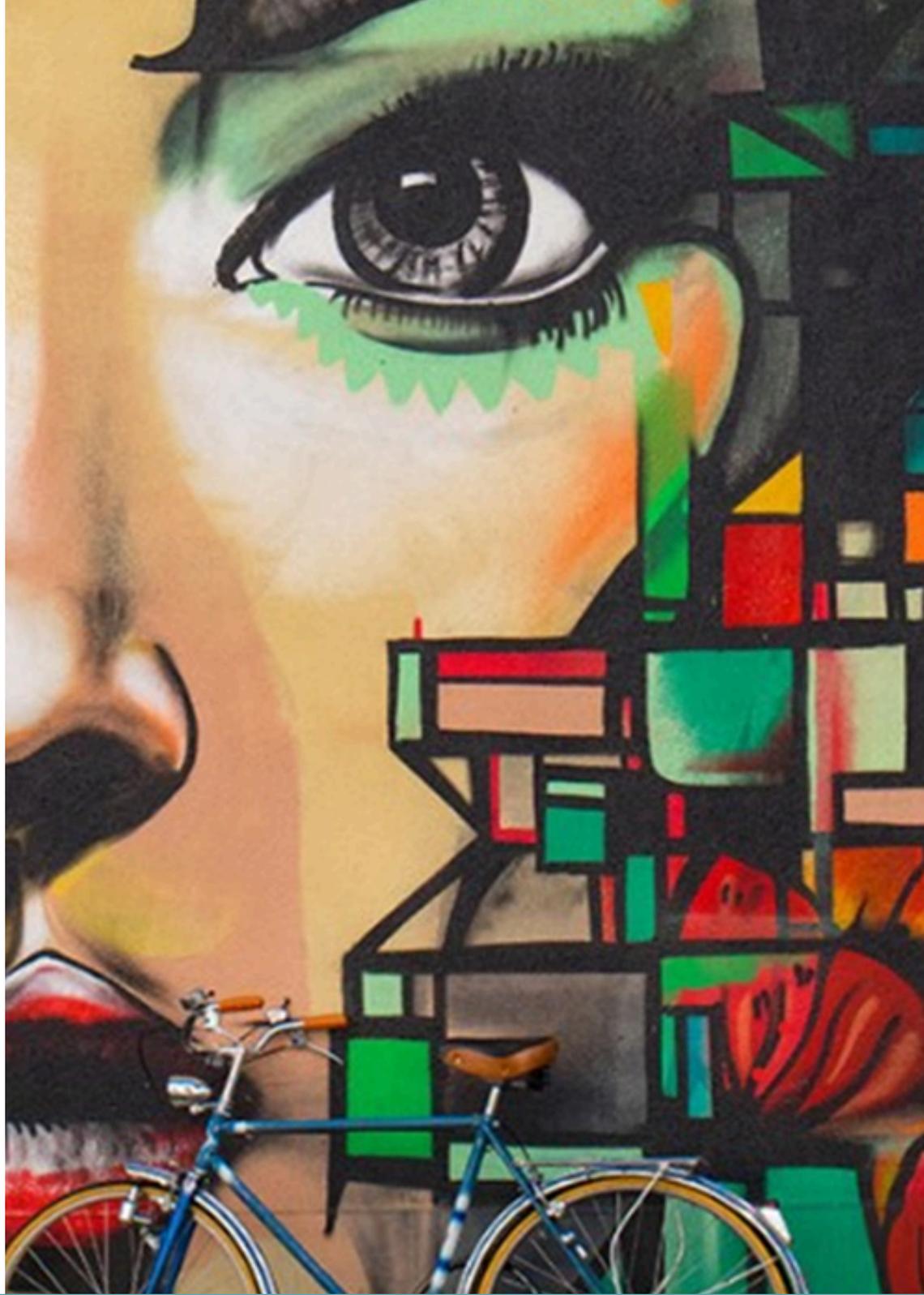


2023 - 24



WARWICK LAW IN THE COMMUNITY

End of year report

CONTENTS

About Warwick Law in the Community	1
Achievements and Highlights 2023-24	2
Facts and Figures	2
Immigration and Asylum Clinic	3
Strategic Social Justice Clinic	4 - 9
Strategic Social Justice Clinic Ongoing Impact	10
LinC Internships Summer 2024	11
Feedback: What our Interns say	12
Feedback: What our student volunteers say	13

ABOUT WARWICK LAW IN THE COMMUNITY

Since its launch in September 2019, Warwick Law in the Community (LinC) has been committed to making a substantial impact at local, national, and international levels through forward-thinking clinical education and research. We partner with a range of organisations to offer both undergraduate and postgraduate law students hands-on legal experience, while advancing social justice. By collaborating with various organisations, our initiatives include not only traditional legal practice and advice but also alternative approaches such as writing, research, community engagement, and public legal education.

Our mission is to produce research that is both engaged and impactful on social justice issues, to explore how such research can enhance community-led efforts through critical and participatory methods, and to foster collaboration between academics, legal practitioners, and activists. By bringing together these different perspectives and areas of expertise, it can create a more holistic and effective approach to addressing social justice issues. We aim to build long-lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborative projects with organisations that align with our values.

During 2023-24, Warwick LinC offered voluntary and paid opportunities for Warwick Law School students across three main initiatives:

Immigration and Asylum Clinic

For over 12 years, students from the Law School have been supporting the Immigration and Asylum Clinic at the Central England Law Centre (CELC). Based on a traditional clinic model, students support frontline advice services under the guidance of Rob Bircumshaw, Head of Immigration and Asylum and his team at CELC.

Strategic Social Justice Clinic

The Strategic Social Justice Clinic (formerly known as the Strategic Public Law Clinic) is a joint initiative between Central England Law Centre and Warwick LinC. It specialises in using public law strategically, focussing on a rights-based approach, to address systematic disadvantage.

Working in small groups, student volunteers receive supervision, guidance and mentorship from Emma Austin (Solicitor and CELC's Public Law Strategic Development Lead) and Dr Rebecca Munro (Co-director of Warwick LinC).

Our projects are carefully selected to put legal learning into practice, find creative ways of using the law and develop leadership, communication and organisational skills in the social justice sector. Student volunteers are closely involved in devising and delivering project strategies, and not simply completing set tasks.

LinC Summer Internships

LinC offers part-time, paid summer internships in partnership with the Central England Law Centre and other local external partner organisations. Internships offer our students the opportunity to gain vital practical experience of in-depth project work which is crucial to their personal development and their career aspirations.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS 2023-24

2023-24 has been a year of growth and advancement for Warwick Law in the Community (LinC). Throughout the year, students have been provided with multiple opportunities to get involved in a number of different ways.

Our Immigration and Asylum Clinic has continued to focus on supporting Exceptional Case Funding applications for legal aid with many opportunities for client facing work. Sixteen students volunteered during Term 1 and Term 2 and were able to work on multiple cases and research. Due to high levels of student engagement, the clinic continued into Term 3, with six volunteers attending on a weekly basis.

Our Strategic Social Justice Clinic has seen the highest number of students participating. This has meant we have been able to complete five projects this year:

- Personal Independence Payment ('PIP') Interview Recording Project Part 1
- Social Housing Conditions: Damp and Mould Project
- PIP Interview Recording Project Part 2
- Social Services Support Levels for Vulnerable Children Project
- Priority Need for Homeless Refugees Project

These projects were a great success and produced high quality research. The clinic has also continued to make use of the work of a number of previous years' projects and see real impact from this work.

This year we did not run the Public Legal Education Module due to our co-Director, Dr Tara Mulqueen, being on research leave. However, we are excited to be convening the PLE module for 2024-25.

Emma Austin who co-leads the SSJC has been awarded the prestigious Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence (WATE): Social Science Faculty Award for 2024. The award acknowledges exceptional contributions to teaching, learning, and assessment within the Faculty, showcasing Emma's talent in nurturing collaboration and creating a supportive student community. We are proud to celebrate Emma's commitment and passion for the SSJC and are lucky to have her co-lead the SSJC for the upcoming year.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Warwick LinC has continued to offer a substantial number of student opportunities in 2023-24.

LinC Volunteering and Internship Opportunities October 2019-August 2024

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
SSJC	29	52	36	46	70
I&A	15	12	15	24	16
PLE Module	15	19	12	23	n/a
Summer Internships	2	9	5	5	6
School Exclusions Project	n/a	n/a	13	n/a	n/a
Total	61	92	81	98	92

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM CLINIC

This year we had 16 students working with us on the clinic, significantly increasing the Law Centre's capacity to support clients. In Term 2, a total of 36 enquirers were seen and in Term 3, a total of 38 enquirers were seen. The sessions focused primarily on immigration applications/OOA on other immigration matters with the Thursday session allocated specifically to enquiries and applications relating to the EU Settlement Scheme. During Term 3, there were many more enquiries regarding the expiry of BRP cards due to the Home Office's phasing out of physical cards to eVisas.

The clinic has continued focusing on supporting Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) applications for legal aid. It mainly encompasses cases in which a client's human rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) would be breached if they do not get funding for legal advice and representation. The ECF clinic is run in a way that helps the students get a better understanding of legal aid, drafting and researching relevant legal provisions. In Term 1, the students helped draft ECF grounds and provide support on ECF applications for 6 clients, all of which were granted.

In addition to supporting applications, students also volunteered for research tasks such as the ALES Scheme, Financial Requirement under Appendix FM, Burundi Research, the Current State of Affairs in Sudan, availability/affordability of Leukaemia in Nigeria and many more. This research aided CELC's team in a number of different cases.

Additionally, the Immigration and Asylum Clinic hosted two interns, who interned for four weeks during the summer break.

Case Study 1

X is a Polish National. X arrived in the United Kingdom as a child in 2013. X attended secondary school and college.

X spent his teenage years living in the United Kingdom and building a life in the United Kingdom with his mother. After finishing his educational studies, X commenced employment and his employer said that they would help regularise his status under the EU Settlement Scheme. This did not happen.

X was subsequently dismissed by his employer due to having no status in the United Kingdom.

X attempted to make a late EU Settlement Scheme application on his own without legal representation. X suffers from mental health issues and was unable to provide all the necessary supporting documents to progress his previous application.

X's mother was able to obtain Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme. X could not.

X therefore sought advice from the Law Centre on how he can regularise his status in the United Kingdom under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Legal Work Required

- Collating Supporting Evidence of Continuous Residence from 2013 -2018.
- Collating Supporting Evidence from 2019-2024
- Research of Appendix EU Immigration Rules

The students assisted with organising/collating supporting documents which accompanied a detailed cover letter outlining X's continuous residence in the United Kingdom.

The Home Office granted X Settled Status in early April 2024.

Case Study 2

X is an Eritrean national, X arrived in the United Kingdom in 2019 and was subsequently granted refugee status in late 2023 and resided in Coventry.

X wife and two youngest children are currently still in Eritrea and are unable to leave due to the political situation and difficulties traveling with young children. Two of his older children aged 12 and 16 were able to flee Eritrea and are currently residing with a family friend in Uganda.

X wishes to bring his two children currently residing in Eritrea to the United Kingdom so they can live with him.

X therefore sought advice from the Law Centre on how he can bring his children to the United Kingdom under Appendix Family Reunion (Protected Person).

Since assisting the client ECF has been granted. The visa application for X's children to join him in the UK under Family Reunion has been granted and X has commenced making arrangements to travel to Uganda to pick them up and bring them back to the UK,

Legal Work Required

- Collating Supporting Evidence of sponsors immigration status, financial and living situation in the United Kingdom
- Collating Supporting Evidence to establish veracity of relationship between the client and his children
- Research of Appendix Family Reunion

The students assisted with organising/collating supporting documents which included the completing of the online applications for both children. The drafting of a detailed cover letter in support of the application outlining X continuous residence in the United Kingdom his refugee status, his relationship with the children and the uploading of all evidence to the TSL portal. Students also helped with completing the Legal Aid application, including CWI form CIV ECVFI and ECF grounds.

STRATEGIC SOCIAL JUSTICE CLINIC

The Strategic Social Justice Clinic (SSJC) is a partnership between Central England Law Centre (CELC) and Warwick LinC. It uses public law and rights-based approaches to address systemic disadvantage and create change. Student volunteers, guided by solicitor Emma Austin from CELC and academic Rebecca Munro from Warwick University, worked on five projects this year, gaining legal experience and developing leadership and communication skills in the social justice sector.

Through SSJC projects, students can gain exposure to the real-life social welfare issues that CELC staff and our partnership organisations encounter in the course of their work. Students undertake a wide range of activities developing their skills.

We have worked across five different projects this year.

1. Personal Independence Payment ('PIP') Interview Recording Project Part 1
2. Social Housing Conditions: Damp and Mould Project
3. PIP Interview Recording Project Part 2
4. Social Services Support Levels for Vulnerable Children Project
5. Priority Need for Homeless Refugees Project.

PIP AUDIO RECORDINGS

PIP is a non-means-tested state benefit for adults with disabilities or long-term health conditions, who have difficulties with day-to-day tasks and/or getting around.

Following years of concerns raised by disabled people and disability and welfare rights charities about the quality of PIP assessment/consultation interviews and, specifically, about discrepancies between the content of these and the information recorded by assessors and provided to the DWP in their reports, in January 2022 Part 1 of the PIP Assessment Guide was updated at Paragraphs 1.6.58-1.6.63 to allow audio recordings to be made of PIP assessment/consultation interviews. It was hoped this would increase transparency and accountability of assessors and improve reliability of the information captured therein.

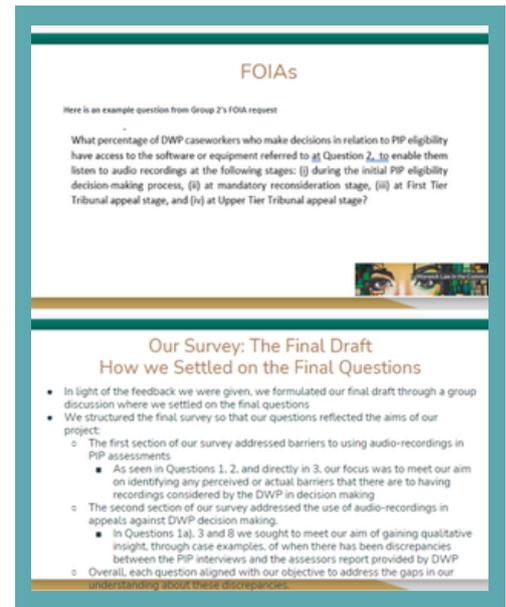
However, despite audio recordings being available for PIP assessment/consultation interviews since 2022, FOIA Data suggests very few interviews are, in fact, currently being recorded (less than 1%). The Work & Pensions Select Committee ('W&PSC') has collected evidence from disability and welfare rights charities about the quality of PIP assessment/consultation interviews and about discrepancies between these and the information provided by assessors to the DWP in their reports.

In March 2023 W&PSC recommended in its report, that pending implementation of long term changes to the disability benefits regime detailed in Transforming Support: The Health and Disability White Paper, an opt-out, rather than opt-in, approach to audio recording for PIP assessment/consultation interviews should be introduced to: "ensure an objective record of assessments exists, providing reassurance to claimants and enabling quality auditing" (Paragraph 98). In June 2023 the Government rejected this recommendation in its Response to Committee's Fifth Report of session 2022-23 (Page 13) due to concerns this "could inadvertently cause additional concerns about the assessment process..." for some claimants where detailed, personal information is shared.

CELC was keen to understand whether the experiences noted in our client cases are reflective of broader decision-making practice by the DWP. This would support: (i) potential strategic litigation by CELC challenging the DWP's non-compliance with Public Law legality and fairness principles in its PIP decision-making; and (ii) lay the groundwork for CELC to undertake further work in collaboration with our partners to seek changes to DWP practices and policies relating to the use of PIP assessment recordings in decision-making processes.

Part 1 - Project Activities and Outcomes:

- Students completed a Public Law analysis of Welfare Benefits provisions and decision-making procedures
- Students submitted FOIA requests to the DWP to establish how many recordings, if any, are listened to in the course of decision-making by the DWP and whether decision-makers have access to the right equipment to allow them to listen to recordings at first instance, at mandatory reconsideration stage and once appeals have been lodged (in order for them to decide whether to defend appeals).
- Students surveyed welfare rights advisors, through the national NAWRA and Rightsnet networks, to gather qualitative evidence of case studies demonstrating discrepancies between assessment/consultation interview content and assessor reports provided to the DWP and harness practitioner viewpoints/experiences about any perceived or actual barriers to having recordings considered by the DWP in decision-making.
- Students extracted useful information from their background reading materials to produce a Cribsheet for volunteers in the continuation project.
- Students met with CELC practitioners and strategic leads from NAWRA and Rightsnet to broaden their contextual understanding and aid development of the project research outputs.
- Presented their early research findings to representatives from CELC's Welfare Benefits and Senior Management Teams and NAWRA, and facilitated a discussion on how this work might be developed to seek a change to DWP practice.



Part 2 - Project Activities and Outcomes:

- Students analysed responses received from the DWP to FOIA requests, considered strengths and weaknesses in the data gathered and identified gaps in information provided in responses. Students then devised and submitted further FOIA requests to DWP, Capita and ATOS to gather further information to bridge gaps in the data and clarify earlier responses provided.
- Students examined responses received from welfare rights advisors to the survey distributed through the national NAWRA and Rightsnet networks. Students scrutinised this qualitative evidence, identifying themes and trends in responses, extracting practitioner viewpoints/experiences about any perceived or actual barriers to having recordings considered by the DWP in decision-making, and drawing out powerful case studies demonstrating discrepancies between assessment/consultation interview content and assessor reports.
- Students conducted independent research of Hansard, Parliamentary Written Questions and Answers and the Transforming Support: The Health and Disability White Paper to identify statements made by or on behalf of the SSWP/DWP as to the purposes of introducing audio recording for PIP assessment/consultation interviews, and to draw out wider concerns raised in parliament about the quality of DWP decision-making for PIP.
- Students presented their findings in a Round Table Meeting to leading welfare rights practitioners from CELC, NAWRA and Rightsnet, and facilitated a discussion about what conclusions could be drawn from the research and how these might be used to develop recommendations for proposed changes to law/policy/DWP decision-making practice.
- Prepared a Policy Briefing Report, which CELC will collaborate with Rightsnet and NAWRA to submit to the Work & Pensions Select Committee, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disability and the Birmingham pilot team for the DWP's Transformation Programme.
- Presented their research findings to representatives from CELC's Welfare Benefits, Public Law and Senior Management Teams.



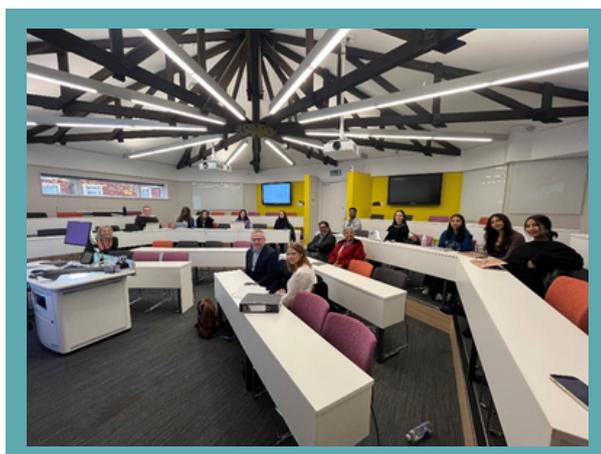
CELC's Housing Team reported an increase in enquiries from tenants about poor conditions in social housing properties due to damp and mould (a form of disrepair). CELC was concerned by how few tenants are able to avail themselves of LASPO provisions to successfully secure Legal Aid to bring disrepair claims against their landlords. The 'serious risk' threshold seemingly disincentivises applications from Legal Aid providers like CELC (even in cases where disrepair claims may well succeed in Court) due to high administrative and evidential burdens that need to be overcome to satisfy the Legal Aid Agency that funding should be granted.

On 13 January 2023 DLUHC and DH&SC issued a joint letter to the Senior Coroner for Manchester North responding to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued following Awaab's death. This was followed by a further announcement by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, on 9 February 2023 that Awaab's Law would be enacted. The Government set out 4 key changes to improve protections for tenants living in properties with damp and mould, in recognition of the fatal consequences this form of disrepair had for Awaab:

1. The **Decent Homes Standard** would be reviewed, with a particular focus on how damp and mould is assessed.
2. The **Housing Health and Safety Rating System** would be reviewed to ensure damp and mould is properly captured.
3. DH&SC would produce **new guidance on the health risks of damp and mould**.
4. The **Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023** would enact '**Awaab's Law**', which requires landlords to fix reported health hazards (including damp and mould) within specified timeframes. The new rules form part of a Tenancy Agreement, so tenants can hold landlords to account if they fail to provide a decent home. Additionally, the powers of the Housing Ombudsman and the Regulator of Social Housing are strengthened.

Project Activities and Outputs:

- Students participated in a Public Law analysis of Housing Law and Legal Aid provisions,
- Students considered LASPO and the Lord Chancellor's Guidance on the current availability of Legal Aid for tenants
- Students surveyed Legal Aid providers through the 'LCN Housing Law Practitioners Group' and the 'Housing and Immigration Law Practitioners Association' networks to gather case studies and practitioner reflections on specific difficulties they encounter in overcoming the 'serious risk' threshold under LASPO to secure Legal Aid for tenants seeking to bring claims for disrepair as a result of damp and mould in their properties.
- Students considered proposed changes to the Decent Homes Standard Guidance, Housing Health and Safety Rating System Guidance, new DHSC Guidance on the health risks of damp and mould and provisions of the newly enacted Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (passed on 20 July 2023) to analyse whether these could be deemed to reflect a fundamental Governmental shift in the 'seriousness' with which damp and mould in social housing properties is viewed.
- Students identified useful information from these materials that could be quoted in individual client cases by Legal Aid providers in applications or appeals for Legal Aid and/or used by CELC in evidence to support Judicial Review legality and rationality ground submissions that the 'serious risk' threshold is met in a greater number of circumstances as a result of these changes.
- Students presented their findings in a Round Table Meeting with the Deputy Chair of the 'Housing and Immigration Law Practitioners Association' and the Head of CELC's Housing Team and sought guidance on what conclusions could be drawn from the research and how these might be used to develop recommendations for Legal Aid practitioners.
- Students produced a Cribsheet for Legal Aid providers on making use of new provisions / passages / sections providers in their applications or appeals for Legal Aid to demonstrate the 'serious risk' threshold is met and to highlight useful new regulatory and monitoring methods open to support clients with damp and mould disrepair issues.
- Students presented research findings to representatives from CELC's Housing and Public Law Teams and facilitated a discussion on their findings



PRIORITY NEED FOR HOMELESS REFUGEES PROJECT

CELC's Housing Team noted increasing difficulties by 2023-2024 in establishing 'priority need' for homeless refugees under the provisions of Part 7 Housing Act 1996. CELC was of the view this may be due to a decline in the quality of Local Authority decision-making generally, increased demand for social housing (which may place pressure on Local Authorities to 'gatekeep') and/or could be related to changes made in recent years to the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities.

To establish eligibility for Local Authority accommodation pursuant to the homelessness provisions under Part 7 Housing Act 1999, applicants must show that they meet 5 general criteria: (i) they are homeless/statutorily homeless or threatened with homelessness (defined in ss175-177 Housing Act 1996); (ii) they have British citizenship or an 'eligible' immigration status; (iii) they are in 'priority need' (s189 Housing Act 1996); (iv) they are not 'intentionally homeless'; and (v) they have a 'local connection' to the respective Local Authority area where their application is made. When these criteria are established applicants are entitled to accommodation from Local Authorities under s193 Housing Act 1996 and then Part 6 Housing Act 1996. They may, additionally, be eligible for interim or temporary accommodation pending determination of their homelessness application under s188 (1ZB) Housing Act 1996.

CELC's Housing Team was concerned about increasing difficulties satisfying criteria (iii), namely establishing 'priority need' for homeless refugees.

In CELC's experience refugees often encounter considerable practical challenges in establishing they are in 'priority need' under the homelessness provisions, owing to difficulties gathering evidence demonstrating vulnerability because of the nature of complex mental illnesses (disabilities) and/or for 'other special reasons' related to traumatic experiences in their country of origin or their journey to the UK.

The Priority Need for Homeless Refugees Project aimed to explore the extent of the difficulties homeless refugees now face in establishing 'priority need' under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and will seek to create resources enabling refugees to demonstrate, pursue and enforce their rights more easily.

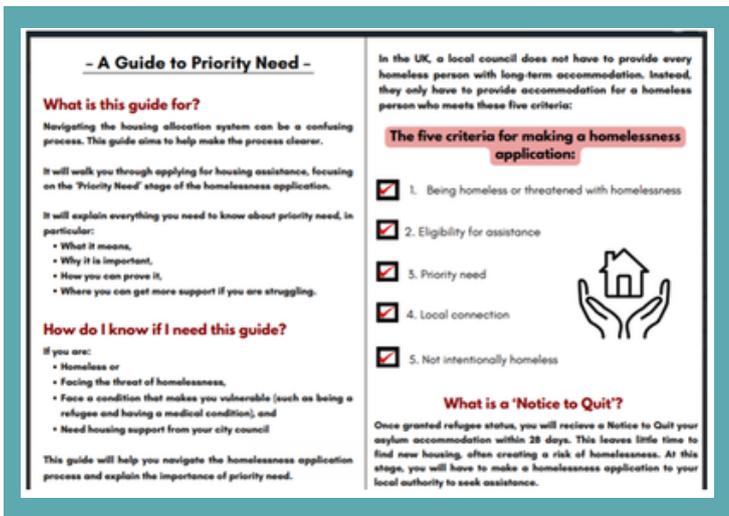
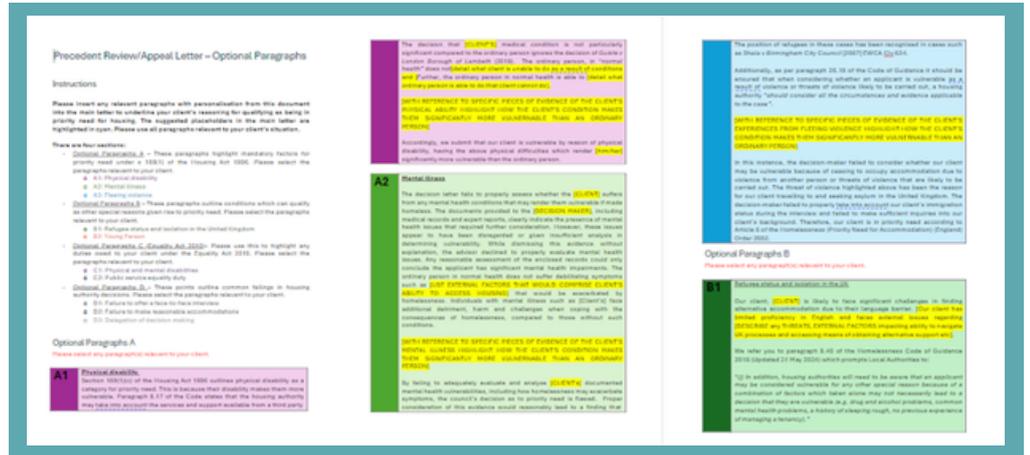
Project Activities and Outputs:

Students participated in a Public Law analysis of Housing Law and relevant International Refugee Law and Immigration provisions. This included presentations from CELC's Housing and Public Law experts and Professor Dallal Stevens from Warwick University, whose expertise is in Refugee Law.

Student volunteers undertook qualitative research by writing an interview schedule and then interviewing representatives from several of CELC's partner organisations based in Coventry and Birmingham, who work with asylum seekers and refugees, to better understand the problems actually faced by refugees in transitioning to mainstream housing following the grant of status, and to gain frontline agency views into how these problems might be tackled. Student volunteers also had access to anonymized CELC case studies, illustrating situations CELC clients have encountered.

Student volunteers attended a Round Table Meeting on Wednesday 5th June with a panel of experienced Housing Practitioners to present their initial research findings and to draw out insights on how 'priority need' can be established in circumstances such as those identified through the qualitative and desk-based research.

Students prepared a precedent review/appeal letter that can be used in collaboration with organisations when vulnerable refugees are refused support under the homelessness provisions on the basis they are not deemed to be in priority need. Students participated in a mock trial prior to finalizing their draft, to test the robustness of their submissions and to enable them to learn to anticipate defendant responses to these so they could revise their drafts accordingly.



Students produced a public legal education resource to help CELC's partner organisations support their clients to navigate the housing application process more smoothly.

- Students analysed and collated research findings and prepared a presentation summarising the qualitative research and analysis drawn from (i) interviews with representatives from asylum seeker and refugee organisations, (ii) the Round Table Meeting with Housing Law practitioners, (iii) anonymised CELC case studies and (iv) desk-based research.
- Students presented their project outputs and research findings to staff from Warwick University, CELC and representatives from relevant partnership organisations.



STRATEGIC SOCIAL JUSTICE CLINIC ONGOING IMPACT

THIS YEAR WE HAVE SEEN THE LONG-TERM VALUE AND POSITIVE IMPACT OF PAST SSJC PROJECTS IN ENABLING CELC TO PROGRESS ITS POLICY-INFLUENCING WORK:

- o After the 'UC50 Project' CELC has engaged in longstanding ongoing liaison with the DWP, in conjunction with CELC's partner organisations, on UC50 processes. The DWP has, this year, finally confirmed to us that the changes we have fought for will be made to Universal Credit processes to improve the claimant journey to accessing work capability assessments.
- o Resources produced in the 'Local Housing Allowance Project' were used by CELC this year to respond to the Shadow Report on the UK's compliance with UN Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and were used in stakeholder meetings with the Ministry of Justice and the UN to support our calls for more robust (and fairer) housing provision.
- o Tools and public legal education resources produced in the 'Care Leavers Project' are to be presented to staff from a range of youth work agencies in Coventry based at the new Youth Hub run by CELC's partners in the project at St Basils.
- o The precedent letter produced in the 'Housing Allocation Project' has been used by CELC's specialist wraparound workers to successfully challenge delays in change of circumstance applications in the Housing Allocation process in Coventry, and the Housing Team has noted a reduction in delays following this correspondence.
- o Research from Projects (1) & (3) this year has already been used in CELC's responses to DWP consultations on 'Fit Note Reform' and 'Modernising Support for Independent Living: the Health & Disability Green Paper'.
- o Research from Project (2) has been used in CELC's response to the DLUHC consultation on 'Reforms to Social Housing'.
- o Research and public legal education resources from Project (4) were presented to national organisations at a Round Table Meeting on dissemination and implementation of the BCD judgment on 22 April 2024 and were also presented to partners at the West Midlands Strategic Legal Advice Committee ('SLAC') launch on 22 May 2024.

LINC INTERNSHIPS

Law for Life Internship- Disability Rights and Housing Law

In term 2 of 2023/24, two of our students undertook an internship with Law for Life: The Foundation for Public Legal Education. Their placement focused on a vital and pressing topic: the intersection of disability rights and housing law, particularly within the private rented sector. During their time with Law for Life, the interns engaged in thorough research to identify the key issues that individuals with various disabilities encounter in the context of the ongoing housing crisis. This involved exploring how the Equality Act and other relevant legislation intersect with housing law. They also conducted original research to uncover the specific challenges faced by disabled individuals in securing and maintaining suitable housing. This included reaching out to organisations that work with these communities, and interviewing stakeholders about their experiences.

LinC Internships Summer 2024

Warwick LinC was able to offer six paid internships during Summer 2024. Student internships have allowed many of our students to gain vital practical experience of in-depth project work which is crucial to their personal development and their career aspirations. To be eligible to apply for our LinC internships, students must have volunteered for LinC at some point during their studies. Internships are part-time (c. 18 hours a week) and we offer internships of varying lengths; a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks

Strategic Social Justice Internship (Central England Law Centre)

The Intern worked on furthering previous Strategic Social Justice Projects and planning future projects, conducting research on policy-influencing opportunities (such as review dates for international treaties), and assisting in drafting consultation responses. The intern was involved in assisting 'CELC' to draft a consultation response to proposed government changes to Personal Independence Payments as well as sitting in meetings with external organisations in order to plan future projects.

Immigration and Asylum Internship (Central England Law Centre)

The two interns worked with the Immigration and Asylum team to assist with all aspects of their work. This included taking instructions from clients, drafting correspondence, conducting legal and country information research and supporting with administrative tasks.

Legal Action Group Internship

The two LAG interns assisted LAG staff with managing their databases, helping to plan and run events, and other operational duties. The interns were involved in a project related to promoting access to justice issues amongst university students across the country. Interns worked on a strategy to boost LAG's engagement with students.

Legal Information, Research and Evaluation Internship (Law for Life: The Foundation for Public Legal Education)

The intern worked alongside the legal information team and the research team at Law for Life to undertake a range of research tasks on a number of ongoing Law for Life research projects. In particular, the intern worked in depth on a health justice research project.

“ FEEDBACK: WHAT OUR INTERNS SAY

Our Summer 2024 LinC Interns provided us with overwhelmingly positive feedback about their experiences. Below are some of the comments they made about their summer internship experiences:

“My experience interning with CELC was incredibly beneficial. I felt the tasks challenged me to push myself further... The variety of topics I looked at allowed me to pursue my interests, while learning about areas of social welfare law I was not previously aware of.”

“This experience has been transformative not only for my law career but also my understanding of the immigration and asylum system. Over time I gained confidence in client-facing tasks, and with my knowledge in immigration law improving significantly,”

“My favourite aspect of the internship was the fact that I was able to sit in on client meetings... These meetings allowed me to witness social change occurring in real time. It felt like a difference was being made in these people’s lives.”

“This has been invaluable experience, especially seeing how such an organisation manages their finite time and resources without compromising on providing a quality service for their users... Overall, it has been a great experience which has highly motivated me to continue in the sector, seeking access to a fairer justice system for all.”

“The work we did this summer helped me further develop my own skills, which will be transferable not only to my time as a student, but also to my future career when I move into the workplace following my degree. Working alongside my fellow intern developed my collaborative working skills and made me better at communicating ideas in a clear, simple and friendly manner.”

“My internship was a transformative experience... From meticulous data management to strategic outreach and event planning, I gained invaluable skills that will serve me well in my future career. This internship reinforced my passion for social justice law and highlighted the significant impact that dedicated legal professionals can make in their communities.”

“ FEEDBACK: WHAT OUR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS SAY

We know from what students have told us in final project meetings and feedback forms that they have had a positive experience participating in the wide range of opportunities we have offered in 2023-24.

Strategic Social Justice Clinic

Really amazing opportunities to interact with housing practitioners and frontline workers, and to conduct an interview for the first time. It was fascinating and engaging to push myself outside of my comfort zone in volunteering for the clinic and presenting to experts and I'm grateful for the opportunity for personal development. Rebecca and Emma were so helpful and lovely throughout the project.

The final presentation went really well. All three groups' work tied together really well.

This project has been incredibly enriching for me. I have been able to not only learn about housing, refugee social welfare law but put that learning into practice and produce an accessible and useful piece of work. I have loved working with my team and the blend of theory and practical work.

Excellent research conducted; from this project we were able to learn so much in a short period of time. I was able to consolidate my group working skills because of the many opportunities for collaboration.

The project was well-structured and well-coordinated - very comprehensive and digestible. Taught me good lessons on the substantive law and practice.

I particularly enjoyed working with a group of diverse people with different outlooks on life, I believe this strongly influenced the work produced and insight gained.

Great organisation and plenty of opportunity to speak with experts in the area, including housing lawyers and front-line workers as well as experts from CELC and academia. Great experience.

Immigration and Asylum Clinic

I appreciated how we were left to work with clients independently but always felt supported by staff if we needed it.

Overall, I have really appreciated the time Leo, Sandeep and Rob have put into explaining the law and guiding us in our interactions. One part that I do think could be improved is regularity. I appreciate that the current set up allows as many students as possible to gain experience but I would've benefited from attending the clinic more regularly.

The ability to meet clients was absolutely the highlight and I have learned a lot from those real interactions!

There was a natural unpredictability to the clinic that was unavoidable from staff members however this enhanced the reality of the experience and created more life skills for me!

Perfect balance of support and independence when conducting the client interviews. I definitely feel like I come away better understanding the different application processes each session.

I genuinely wouldn't change anything about the experience so far. It's exactly what I wanted it to be!

