

TAMESIDE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

PROVIDER GROUP MEETING

16 June 2009

Commenced: 2.00 pm **Terminated:** 2.40 pm

Present:

Janine Yates	TMBC Welfare Rights Unit (in the Chair)
Stephanie Booth	Tameside Libraries
Ruth Cheesbrough	TMBC Welfare Rights Service
John Dunn	Thornley Solicitors
John Galvin	Rogerson Galvin Solicitors
Liz Gilmour	Thornley Solicitors
Caroline Gregory	TMBC Community Regeneration
Lesley Hunter	GMPERAS
Debra McLoughlin	Bromley Hyde and Robinson Solicitors
Alistair Newton	Tameside Trading Standards
Susan Riley	Tameside CAB
Julie Vickers	New Charter Housing Trust

**Apologies for
Absence:**

Ahmed Ali	Equality & Diversity Centre of Excellence
Dave Burdis	MiNT
Alan Franco	TMBC CLS Co-ordinator

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 17 March 2009 were approved as a correct record. Updates relating to adult advancement would be obtained for distribution with the minutes.

In respect of Item 7 – Legal Services Commission: Quality Mark – it was noted that Libraries would not be reapplying for the quality mark.

2. EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Lesley Hunter outlined the work of the Greater Manchester Pay and Employment Rights Service and statistics relating to work undertaken in the last twelve months was circulated and it was noted that 6% of total enquiries were from Tameside residents which had approximately 8% of the population of Greater Manchester. It was noted that enquiries relating to redundancies was increasing and the issues relating to holidays was the next most frequent enquiry.

GMPERAS provided free, confidential employment advice, information and support through its advice line which was open every day. There were also two workers who supported specific projects. The Dawes Project addressed employment rights for women experiencing domestic violence and to date four women had been supported. In terms of the Migrant Workers project, a total of 100 workers had been supported since January 2009 with relating to issues such as non payment of wages and discrimination and 8 of these cases were from Tameside.

Susan Riley, Tameside Citizens Advice Bureau, circulated a report detailing the employment advice work which had been undertaken. The Bureau had a part time specialist worker and hosted additional appointments provided by Bolton and Manchester CAB. One off and casework advice

was offered, with representation in certain cases. LSC eligible and ineligible cases were carried out and the CAB had also seen an increase in redundancy related enquiries.

AGREED

That the update reports be noted.

3. CONSUMER ADVICE AND TRADING STANDARDS

Alistair Newton explained the details of the 'Buy with Confidence Scheme' which was a list of approved local traders. Traders would have to supply at least seven references to have their business included on the list which was available on the Council's website and as a hard copy. Further information could be obtained by contacting 0161 342 3671. This scheme provided an opportunity to promote local businesses, recognise good business standards and to counter the problem of rogue traders. The scheme was proving very popular with traders and customers alike.

In relation to the forthcoming digital switchover, concern was expressed that members of the public could be sold inappropriate or unnecessary equipment and people should always look for the official logo.

AGREED

That the update reports be noted.

4. COUNTY COURT DUTY ADVICE SCHEME

AGREED

That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates and themes for future meetings in was noted as follows:

Date	Theme (area of law)
15 th September 2009	(i) Immigration (ii) Discrimination
15 th December 2009	(i) Housing (ii) Debt

Meetings to commence at 2.00 pm in the Council Offices, Ashton-under-Lyne.