



Ministry  
of Justice

**Alex Chalk MP**  
Parliamentary Under-  
Secretary of State for  
Justice

Sir Robert Neill MP  
Chair of the Justice Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

20 January 2021

Dear Sir Bob,

### **FULL AWARDING OF THE LEGAL SUPPORT FOR LITIGANTS IN PERSON GRANT**

Further to my letter of 18 August 2020, I am pleased to announce that the Legal Support for Litigants in Person (LSLIP) grant funding has now been fully allocated. The full announcement will be published on gov.uk in due course.

As you know, the LSLIP grant programme is being delivered in partnership with the Access to Justice Foundation (ATJF) to deliver £3.1 million in grants to not-for-profit organisations at local, regional and national levels to enhance support to litigants in person, with the aim of understanding more about how they can, collectively, support people.

In my previous letter, I outlined the three projects identified to deliver services at the national level. These services collectively received over £500k in funding and commenced delivery in July last year. I also set out that, to help frontline organisations focus on responding to the pandemic and to allow them a reasonable opportunity to develop their proposals, the local and regional funding streams were paused, and a small pot of £270k of emergency funding was allocated through the ATJF's Community Justice Fund. I am delighted to let you know that this emergency funding was fully allocated over the course of last summer.

Moreover, I am thrilled to report that the local and regional funding streams of the LSLIP programme are now underway. Eight further projects have been identified, whereby £2 million is going towards helping some of the most vulnerable people to address their legal problems.

At the local level, funding is being used to scale-up existing provision to increase the reach and impact of crucial frontline services and help organisations target issues that they know to be particularly prevalent in their local area. Five partnerships have been identified and will operate in Suffolk and Norfolk, Mid and North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, East and West Midlands, and Dorset and South Somerset. All projects delivered by these local partnerships have put use of technology at the heart of service delivery, learning lessons from how they have had to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and assessing how innovation can continue to benefit users once life begins to transition to a sense of normality. Just under £1 million of funding has been awarded to these five new partnerships.

At the regional level, funding is aimed at developing services for litigants in person in areas where it can have the most impact and, crucially, to build up partnerships and expertise to encourage collaboration across organisations providing legal support. Our initial plan was to fund two regional projects, but we are delighted that

we have been able to set up LSLIP partnerships in three geographic areas in North Wales, the North East of England, and Devon and Cornwall. Just under £1 million of funding has also been awarded to these three new partnerships.

To fully deliver on these aims, grant evaluation remains vitally important to ensure valid outcomes and value for money. To that end, MoJ and ATJF continue to work assiduously to ensure that grant recipients are supported through the process of developing evaluation plans for their projects, and then delivering on the agreed outcomes they set out. We have held evaluation workshops with all our local, regional and national grant recipients which received positive feedback. We continue to work together with all grant recipients to ensure that monitoring and evaluation are carried out effectively, to help us to develop an evidence base of what works to support litigants in person. In so doing, we will be able to draw together a clearer picture from which the sector can learn and develop more informed funding applications, the ATJF can use to inform their own funding decisions, and the MoJ can use to shape future policy proposals in a way that isn't currently possible.

I will continue to keep you and the Committee updated as the grant programme progresses. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chalk'.

**ALEX CHALK MP**