



North East Legal Support Trust

SMALL GRANTS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 2010

NELST recently announced the results of its inaugural grants round, in which just over £9,000 was distributed across the region covered by the Trust. Organisations providing free legal help to those in need received small grants to support and enhance their work. The funds distributed by NELST were received through the sponsored walks and from donations.

NELST issued an invitation for small grant applications in April 2010, accepting applications from organisations located in the North East Circuit. In addition to being published on the website, the invitation was distributed to potential applicant organisations by NELST, local organisations and key legal contacts.

Applications were accepted in accordance with NELST's governing documents. The grant invitation stated that that preference would be given to strategic developments or smaller capacity building elements, though all types of funding needs would be considered. Examples (for illustration only) included:

- IT or other equipment that increases an organisation's capacity to undertake casework.
- Help with feasibility or research work on a strategic issue covering a wider than local area.
- Help with staff training or organisational development that increases effectiveness or enhances cooperation.

12 applications were received by the closing deadline and were reviewed by the Trustees. Small grants were awarded to 8 organisations in the region, in amounts from £500 to £2,000.

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED TO:

Manuel Bravo Project - Asylum advice service based in Leeds to purchase a Case Management System.

Bradford & Airedale CAB - towards the upgrade of the IT system.

Castle Advice Service; Firth Park Advice Service; Foxhill and Parson Cross Advice Service – (all based in Sheffield) towards training

Newcastle Law Centre – towards training and accreditation

HALT – Domestic Violence legal advice and advocacy service based in Leeds grant towards accreditation

Rift Valley – Children's legal advice service based in Kenya and supported in Newcastle towards the purchase of computer equipment

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