

## LSBU Legal Advice Clinic

The Law Department is deeply committed to improving the employability of its students; so much so that it has increased their opportunities for real practical legal experience by creating the LSBU Legal Advice Clinic. Opening in September 2011, the Clinic will be a free, community based, face-to-face advice service staffed by trained Student Volunteers, working under the supervision of practising solicitors.

Each week, these Volunteers will interview and assess clients and then assist solicitors and barristers while advising clients in particular areas of law covering matters such as housing, debt, welfare and benefits. This is a valuable service for the community and excellent training for our students as it allows them to develop their transferrable skills as well as seeing the real life impact that the law has on people in the local community. In many cases, clients cannot clearly identify their legal problem and the Volunteers' role is to assist in defining their problems and providing concise explanations of often complex legal concepts and processes.

The Clinic Directors, Alan Russell and Dr John Russell, have between them 30 years of experience of working as solicitors and advocates in private practice, law centres and advice services. Alan Russell says: 'There's a huge demand for legal advice in inner London and Southwark is no different. The LSBU Legal Advice Clinic is part of the Southwark Legal Advice Network and is an excellent addition to existing services.'

'We would like to thank Philcox Gray & Co Solicitors and Wainwright & Cummings Solicitors for staffing our housing and family advice sessions, as well as the Southwark Legal Advice Network for all the help they have given us thus far.'

This project is a great example of how local businesses are supporting our students and in turn the community. Without the resources provided by these law firms, the Legal Advice Clinic may not have been possible.

**For further information on the Legal Advice Clinic, please contact Alan Russell by email at [alan.russell@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:alan.russell@lsbu.ac.uk)**



### LSBU Professor Faith Gibson is Clinical Professor of Children and Young People's Cancer Care at Great Ormond Street.

**Here she explains how a £198,000 grant from The Burdett Trust for Nursing will help to improve the quality of care that children will receive once they reach adulthood.**

'An increasing number of children with chronic conditions are now surviving into adulthood. As a result there are more children with chronic health needs or complex disabilities that require ongoing specialised care. The provision of health care for this group of young people has been the focus of attention for some time, with the Department for Health highlighting the need for a seamless service to be developed, a service that should transition young people between paediatric and adult services.'

Ensuring this seamless transition is one of the many challenges facing health care providers. Our aim is to understand transition from the perspectives of health care providers, young people and family members in order to develop standard clinical practice. This research, in turn, will contribute to how transition is managed and evaluated; it will ensure we meet the needs of young people and continue to improve health outcomes of those with chronic illness.

The grant from The Burdett Trust for Nursing has enabled this research to commence in October 2011 and run for 24 months. I am most grateful to the Trust and its Trustees for making this research project possible.'



