

East Northamptonshire Council

Date of Council Meeting	26 April 2010
Report of Councillor	Tony Boto

Representation on Outside Body

Event/Meeting/Organisation attended	Community Law Service (formerly the Welfare Rights Advice Service)
Date(s) attended	Board Meetings on various dates
Nature of event/meeting	Review of operations and developments of Community Law Service
Regional/County/Welland District/Ward/other	County
Matters on interest and/or Significance to report *	<p>The CLS continues to provide countywide Benefit and Debt advice together with support in the areas of housing, immigration and family law. The organisation also provides a court help desk under a Housing Duty/Possession Scheme Service.</p> <p>Within East Northamptonshire the CLS operates dedicated Benefits Advice and Debt Counselling services from a small office in the Rushden centre rented from ENC.</p> <p>A meeting was held between CLS representatives, Mike Greenway and myself at ENC House in January 2010. Julie Silver (CEO of CLS) updated us on current activities and future issues.</p> <p>The Legal Services Commission (fundors of CLS for legal work) are putting service out for tender in September 2010.</p>
Financial or resourcing issues *	The recession has continued to ensure a high demand for debt counselling throughout the county including East Northants.
Further action required by the councillor (if any) *	None
Request for action by ENC (if any) *	ENC is requested to consider an increase in funding as existing funding covers office rent only. They are also requesting assistance with the location of improved premises in Rushden (discussed at January meeting).
Relevance to the ENC aims and objectives *	Improved health and wellbeing; improved access to services; empowered communities; reduced deprivation.
Date of Report	14 April 2010

* Where necessary, please use an additional sheet.