



# Greater Manchester Law Centre Steering Group

## **WELFARE BENEFITS ADVISERS- WE NEED YOU!**

There are **only 2 law centres** in Bury and Rochdale, with the rest of Greater Manchester (and its 2.7 million people) effectively being a '**law centre-free zone**'. In addition to the increased number of people representing themselves, a recent report by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission citing the **disproportionate effect** of the legal aid reforms and law centre closures on **women, disabled people** and **BME communities**, the demand for a new law centre is clear. Quite simply, **no representation means no access to justice**.

In 2015, legal aid lawyers, trade unionists and advice organisations came together to set up a community law centre for Greater Manchester. The centre intends to provide **access to high-quality, free legal advice** and **representation** for people in Greater Manchester and to empower people to use their voices to **campaign for change**.

### **Volunteers will be the backbone of this law centre.**

We are wanting to launch a pilot scheme that delivers advice and representation in welfare benefits and are looking for **volunteer advisers** and **lawyers** to help deliver these services.

If you are:

- an experienced welfare benefits adviser or lawyer
- able to volunteer a few hours each week
- eager to be involved at the start of an exciting new project, then we would love to hear from you.

Please send over a CV with details of your experience in welfare benefits advice and representation to [info@gmlaw.org](mailto:info@gmlaw.org) by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm.**