

“CLOCK as a Transformative Methodology; exploring how the CLOCK initiative has transformed theory and practice in legal education”.

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The Community Legal Outreach Collaboration, Keele (CLOCK), represents an academic, public sector, professional and third sector partnership, working in time to critically respond to the effects of LASPO on the provision of publicly funded legal service and examine new and innovative ways to respond to community legal services and access to justice needs.



In this panel we will consider how CLOCK has reimagined the traditional clinical legal education model, centring community legal needs within a collaborative outreach model.

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CLOCK A Transformative Methodology

CLOCK was initiated at a time of crisis, when community legal needs are rising, the legal profession has limited public funding for family and social welfare law, and the regulatory framework for supervision within legal education is being revised.

- CLOCK applies a rights based 'transformative methodology' to develop a distinct and active 'three-dimensional' community legal strategy: activated through three strands of the CLOCK strategy –
- 'Clock-in', community legal education, Recognition to Reflection
- 'Clock-works' community legal services, Redistribution to Revaluation
- 'Clock-wise' community legal research, Relocation to Mobility.. Revolution.
- 'About CLOCK', <https://clock.uk.net/Pages/About>
- Jane Krishnadas, Rights as the Intersections: Rebuilding Cultural, Material and Spatial Spheres- A Transformative Methodology', in Rohee Dasgupta (ed) '*Cultural Practices and Political Possibilities*', (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008)

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Community Legal Education

Recognition to Reflection

- The first section CLOCK In – activates community legal education, drawing upon perspectives on ‘Teaching social justice lawyering: systematically including community legal education in law school clinics’, to embed their analysis of community legal education within Paulo Freire’s critique that when “people develop their power to perceive critically the way they exist in the world with which and in which they find themselves; they come to see the world not as a static reality, but as a reality in process, in transformation’.
- Barry, Camp, Johnson, Klein and Martin, ‘Teaching social justice lawyering: systematically including community legal education in law school clinics’ (2012) Clinical Law Review
- Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed 83 (1970), cited in Barry et al, (2012)

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Community Legal Innovation

Redistribution to Revaluation

- ‘CLOCK-Works’ activates the second strand of the transformative methodology, to re-value legal needs in relation to the capacity of legal actors, training law students to assist the community in accessing their respective legal services on a legal aid, affordable fixed fee or charitable basis, and where these services are not available, to act within the remit of the McKenzie Friend; to assist filling in forms, arranging case papers, accompanying in court and taking notes. The Community Legal Companion acts as an agent of change at the intersection of the community, legal profession, courts and charitable sector, to build capacity across a range of interrelated and intersecting legal needs in family, housing and social welfare law.

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Community Legal Research

Relocation to Mobility... Revolution

- Finally, 'CLOCK-Wise', builds upon the third strand of the transformative methodology, to 'mobilise' rights, to build bridges from the standpoint of the often isolated and vulnerable legal subject across the array of legal actors, to transform social and legal policy. CLOCK is currently being cascaded in England and Wales, through the first and only direct access web portal.
- Mobilise individual to collective experiences..

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Low Commission Report

- “How society may meet one of its heaviest responsibilities, namely the responsibility to ensure that its members who are least able to protect themselves are provided with the assistance that they require to cope with the challenges they are inevitably faced” Rt Hon Lord Woolf

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R.32 Ministry of Justice and Department of Education

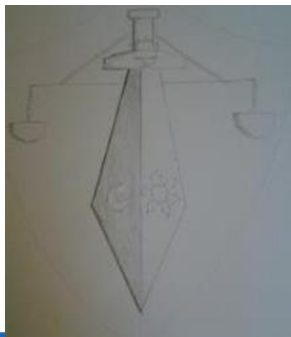
- “Should work together to integrate information about legal rights and responsibilities to the national curriculum programmes of study for citizenship”



CLOCK-IN, Community Legal Education

- Collaborative commitment to develop **community legal education projects** to share in schools, colleges, university and wider communities on social and legal issues, such as hate crimes, intimate/societal violence, homelessness and citizenship to develop community legal consciousness, awareness-raising and access to justice, and raising aspirations

'Today's session was interesting and showed the imbalance in the law and how it effects us'.



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CLOCK- Community Legal Outreach Collaboration Keele

- Following the Community Legal Education, Law in Action presentations; formed the Community Legal outreach Collaboration, Keele (**CLOCK**)
- Drawing on the Regional Law Society Roundtable; “innovations in legal services to meet unmet legal need, pilot McKenzie friend, ***“She’s my calm in the storm”***”
- Proposal to develop expert guidelines and training programme for selected students to be trained and supervised by the professional partners as a **Community Legal Companion**

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Community Legal Companion

- A Keele Law Student monitored and insured by Keele University Law School
- CRB/DBS checked, and bound by the confidentiality and well being agreement
- Committed to one session (4hrs) per fortnight for the academic term-time teaching (20 weeks)
- Trained by the partnership 5 day academic, solicitor, third sector, court and barrister training; with additional court and third sector specialism
- Court Trained and operating from the court desk
- Bound to report and refer all community legal companion activities

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‘One-stop Shop’

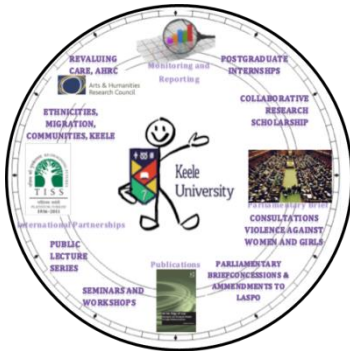
- Monitoring; Access to Legal Aid, Mediation, Charitable services,
- Sharing Information; confidentiality, safeguarding, evidence criteria for legal aid applications
- Access to multiple services; one client accessing VoE, Arch, CAB, Brighter Futures, Nowell-Meller solicitors, Criminal trial, Police, Probation, Southall Black Sisters.

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Law in Context

- Litigants stranded (LAG, 650,000 per year)
- Courts Over-run (Commons Justice Committee)
- Public Sector/Local Authority costs of debt, homelessness, familial and community violence
- Legal Profession; closure of High Street Firms
- Law Students- access to work experience...employment
- Law Schools- how to recruit students...fees?
- Academia- Viability of Family, Social Welfare, Discrimination, Human Rights Law and contributions to research and policy on access to justice.

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CLOCK-Wise

- Collaborative frameworks to support **social and legal policy research** to monitor and critically analyse legal issues in the local community towards wider dissemination, social advocacy and policy reforms at local, national and international

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CLOCK's 5th Anniversary



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Stoke on Trent Judicial Endorsement

- ▶ *The judges of Stoke-on-Trent County Court are very impressed by the scheme and the presence of trained volunteers in our court on a daily basis will provide a valuable source of support for many Court Users facing difficult issues. We feel fortunate that this imaginative scheme is based locally. We look forward to supporting the development of the scheme*

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Canterbury CLOCK Project



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Canterbury

- *“On behalf of the judiciary and court office at Canterbury, I welcome the initiative shown by the University’s School of Law in establishing its CLOCK project. In these days of declining eligibility for legal aid it is increasingly important that those who wish to bring claims or are facing legal proceedings should have the opportunity for assistance and guidance. To have help in drafting documents, preparing for a hearing and being supported by someone at such a hearing will prove invaluable.”*

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Sussex and Brighton Companions



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Leicester CLOCK Litigants in Person Project



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Leicester Judicial Endorsement

- District Judge Stamenkovich who played an integral role in setting up this project comments:
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- *“I first became aware of CLOCK at a Family Justice Board Conference, which I attended with HHJ Bellamy probably 4/5 years ago. The LIP Project had been immensely successful in Stoke and I was keen to try and get it up and running here.”*

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Open University

- Open Justice
- Mapping community legal needs and resources.

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Civil Justice Council, MoJ LiP Support Strategy

- The strategy has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and HMCTS playing a valued part.

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Justice Select Committee

Impact of changes to civil legal aid under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012

- [Keele University, Community Legal Outreach Collaboration, Keele - written evidence | PDF version \(73 KB\)](#) LAS0068 | Ordered to be published *13 May 2014*

LiP Strategy

- The Personal Support Unit
- The RCJ Advice Bureau
- Law Works
- Law for Life
- Bar Pro Bono Unit and Access to Justice Foundation

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MoJ LASPO Review, 2018

- we are in support of the sort of work that CLOCK is undertaking. We are aware of the value of the work you do and it is one of a number of really excellent initiatives that are already in place.

Our approach will be for the national infrastructure to complement existing work which will mean exploring ways of leveraging in local legal support and advice in the way in which CLOCK has clearly been successful. We will build on the PSU infrastructure and will also bring in support from law clinics, advice services and national organisations with relevant expertise. So, to that extent your work will most certainly be an integral part of the strategy and the first piece of work that we will be doing is ensuring that local PSUs are linking up with existing resources.

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