

ANALYSING DIFFERENT MODELS OF CLINICS AND HOW THEY OPERATE

The LSBU Drop-in Model

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Become what you want to be

London
South Bank
University

London
South Bank
University
**LEGAL ADVICE
CLINIC**
OPENING HOURS
Tuesdays
10am - 12pm
Wednesdays
10am - 12pm &
3pm - 5pm

**Legal Advice
Clinic**



LSBU LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

- A free face-to-face community legal advice centre based on campus & staffed by students working under the supervision of practising solicitors
- Opened to the public in September 2011
- **3000+ clients**
- Housing, family, employment, welfare benefits, debt, consumer

CONTEXT

- A widening participation institution
 - 25% UG law students live locally in south & east London
 - 57% women
 - 65% over 21
 - 70% non-white
 - 52% in paid employment (80% working 9 hours plus)
 - 17% caring for at least one school age child

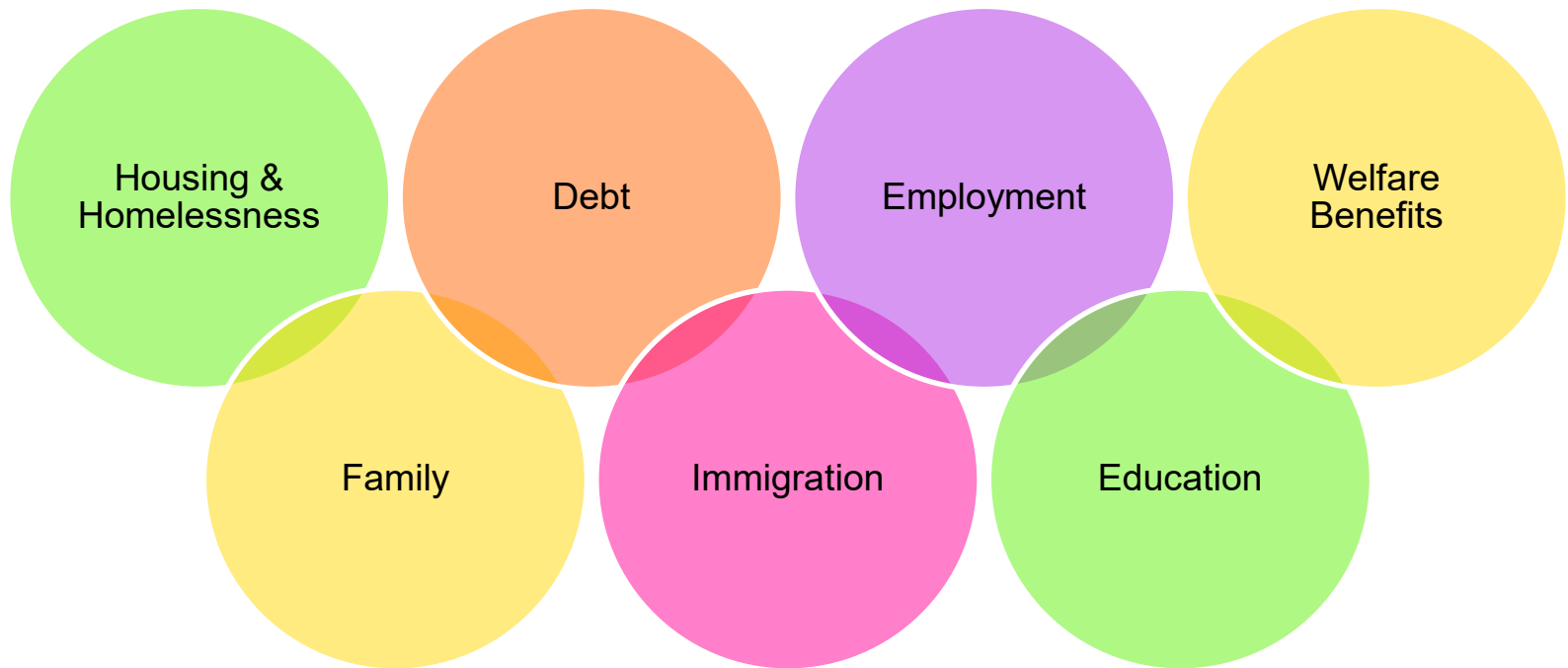
CONTEXT

Students unlikely to have links to the legal professions

- *‘Unleashing Aspiration: Final Report of the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions (Milburn , 2009)*
- *‘Access to Professional Careers, a Progress Report by the Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility and Child Poverty’ (Milburn, 2012)*



CONTEXT



CONTEXT

- Clustering
- Early intervention
- Impact on health and wellbeing
- 'Referral fatigue'

CONTEXT

- *Genn, H. (1999) Paths to Justice: What People Do And Think About Going To Law. Oxford: Hart Publishing;*
- *Balmer, N. (2013) Summary Findings of Wave 2 of the English and Welsh Civil and Social Justice Panel Survey, Legal Services Commission;*
- *Pleasance, P, Balmer, N & Denvir, C 'How People Understand and Interact with the Law' (PPSR 2015)*
https://www.thelegaeducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/HPUIL_report.pdf

CONTEXT

- Southwark ranked 23rd most deprived out of 326 local districts in England (*DCLG 2015*)
- Demand for SWL advice enormous
- Supply very limited



CONTEXT

- Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) 2012
- £320 million savings PA
- Legal Help Scheme slashed
- Welfare benefits, debt, employment, education, immigration advice out of scope
- Housing and family advice severely restricted

DROP-IN SOCIAL WELFARE LAW ADVICE



- Drop-in face to face social welfare law advice
- Drop-in 4 x 3 hours a week
- Staffed by students; supervised by university employed solicitors
- Minimum 12 week placement
- 25 clients a week

DAY TIME DROP-IN

- Basic information on any legal topic
- Generalist advice in all areas of social welfare law (save immigration)
- Signpost/referral to other local legal advice agencies and law firms
- Refer to our own evening sessions

EVENING SESSIONS

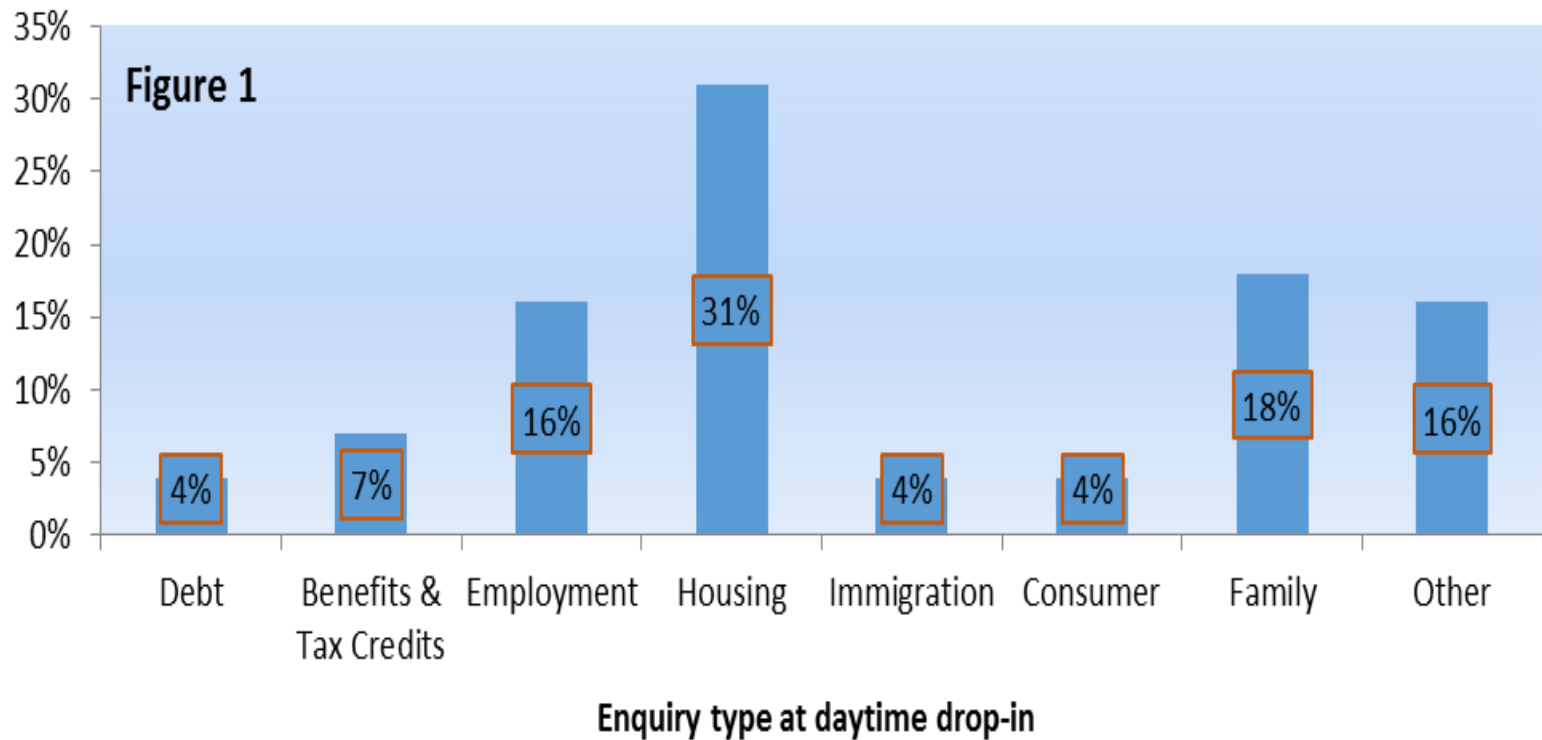
Students shadow pro bono solicitors & barristers giving specialist legal advice in

- Housing
- Family
- Employment

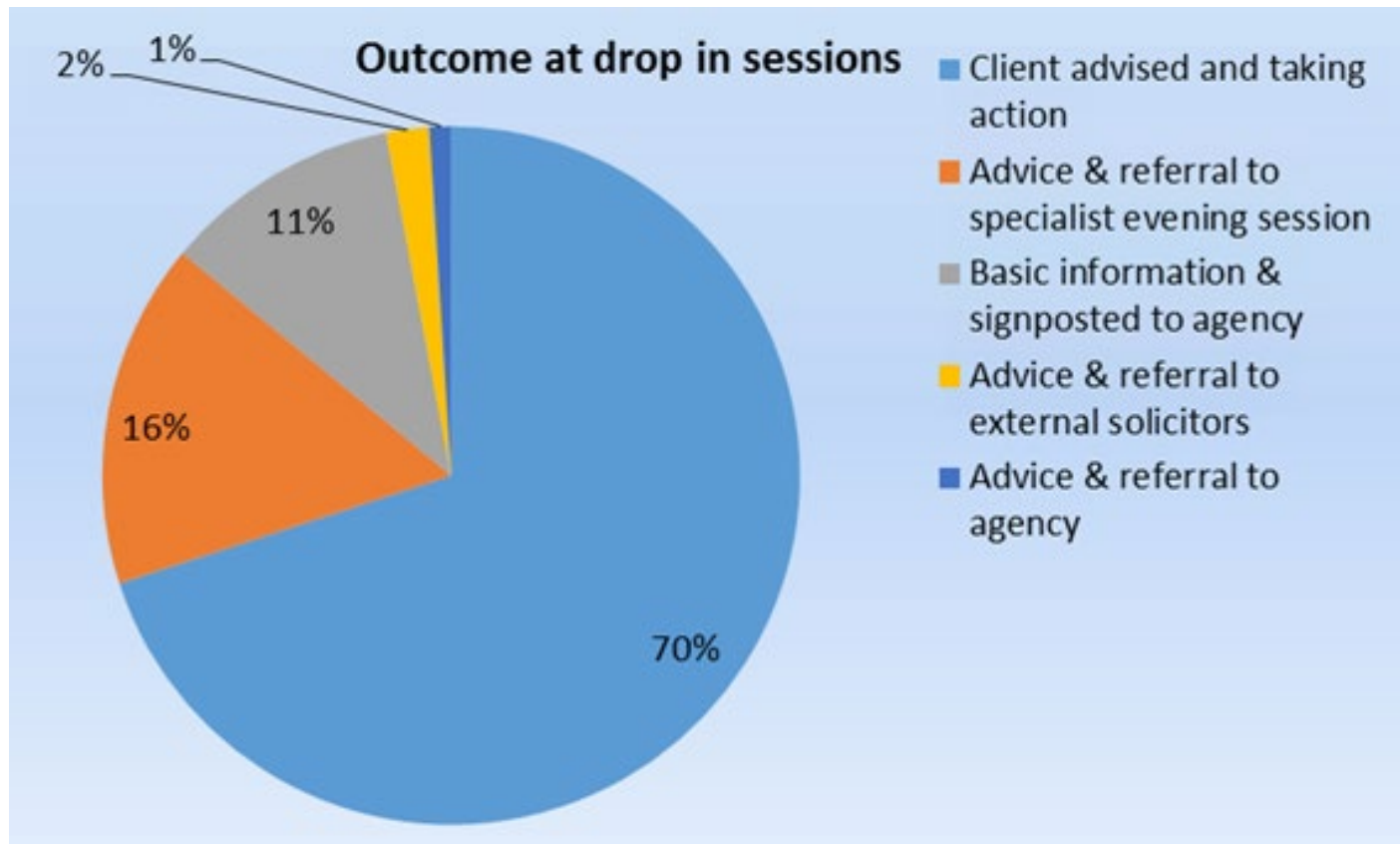
CLIENT OUTPUTS

3000+ clients
helped

CLIENT OUTPUTS



CLIENT OUTPUTS



STUDENTS – LEARNING

- In at the deep end – first point of contact
- Translating client concerns into legally recognisable categories
- Interviewing skills
- Practical legal knowledge
- Understanding of client care and professional ethics

STUDENTS – FEEDBACK

- Instant feedback from supervisors
- Peer to peer feedback
- Writing skills – the advice record

REFERENCES

- *'University Based Drop in Legal Advice Services in the UK: Widening Access to Justice and Tackling Poverty'*, Alan Russell in *'Academic Issues on Poverty and Hunger'*, Clarice Seixas Duarte et al (orgs), Canal 6, 2016, p83-97
<https://sites.google.com/site/conferenciaasapbrasil/ebook>
- *'Drop in Legal Advice Clinic Directors Manual'*, 1st edition, John Russell, London South Bank University, LawWorks, Higher Education Academy UK, 2013
<http://www1.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/downloads/law/lsbu-drop-in-clinic-manual-v1>

CONTACT

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