



Shoosmiths MK Pro-Bono Clinic

In collaboration with citizens advice

31 March 2020

SH ∞ SMITHS

www.shoosmiths.co.uk

Founded to Impact Communities

- Clinic is a direct response to UN's global sustainable development goals
- Trainee Pro-Bono Challenge
- Enabling Trainees to practice legal advice under supervision
- Creating platform to build a future of lawyers who are conscious of pro-bono from the beginning of their careers



Setting Up the Clinic

- Collaborative Work with CAB – available and flexible
- Q & R – insurance, liability, confidentiality and obligations
- LawWorks – where to store data, Intralinks
- Administration – forms used in clinic, materials pack, appointing advisors and supervisors
- Two month set up

Stakeholders

- Robin Webb - Shoosmiths Head of Office Milton Keynes
- Quality and Risk
- citizens advice Milton Keynes
- 2018 Milton Keynes Trainees
- Supervisors and Advisors

How the Clinic operates

- Conflict Checking – screen information before full brief is received
- Research – online resources, supervisors and wider firm consulted
- Supervision – 3 years PQE, debriefed on research, on site
- On the day – two advisors, one supervisor, 30 min slots
- Advice – provide options, tools, give guidance and direction
- Feedback - if client is available and requisite time allocated

Additional support received

- From LawWorks – online materials, training session
- Internal training of advisors
- CAB support – on the day and beyond

Next Steps

- Have recently implemented a Personal Injury appointment to the clinic, which the 2019 trainees have started – shows growth and continuity.
- An increase in advisors – more junior solicitors and paralegals
- Goal is to increase supervisor count.
- Build on relationship with CAB and build more clinics cross-country.
- Compulsory for trainees - continuity and sustainability

Awards and honours

- Berks, Bucks & Oxon Law Society – Award for Best Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative 2019
- Shoosmiths Trainee Awards 2019 – Best Trainee CSR Initiative and Most Office Involvement
- Nominated for LawWorks Annual Pro Bono Awards for Best Contribution by a Large Firm

ANY
questions

