

Legal Empowerment Conference 2010 - Advice and Legal Service workshop



Notes from the Workshop

- PLE can complement and conflict with the advice service.
- Demonstrating value is important – evaluation and recording tools are important. Both PLE process and outcome needs to address by this.
- People are looking for interesting communication methods – both practitioners and public/client group.
- PLE has a specific skill set – may be different from advisers but advisers may also be hiding skills or able to develop them.
- Publicity is needed.
- Project materials and resources and good practice should be shared e.g. plenet website and events.
- PLE needs to move beyond information provision and into education.
- Education need not be a formal session – learning happens in all sorts of contexts and relationships.

- PLE in the UK needs a strategy to embed it across government and political parties etc.
- It must focus on empowerment – not just something the middle classes or educated do ‘to’ the poor.
- PLE should also target decision makers and power holders to advance justice.
- Skills and affective/emotional aspects of learning are just as if not more than important than legal knowledge.
- In evaluating PLE we must be clear about who we are seeking positive outcomes for. The govt/funder/advice agency. Don’t forget the client and sometime the legal component is a minor part of a good social outcome.

February 2010