

## ROBB PROJECT

*Protecting from discrimination and promoting equality in  
Rochdale, Oldham, Bury & Bolton*

The ROBB project is a **FREE DISCRIMINATION LAW SERVICE** working in partnership with other advice agencies.

Rochdale Law Centre was recently given a grant by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to extend the remit of our discrimination advice service to include discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and transgender.

Through our grant we are able to provide a thorough advice and casework service to clients from the Bolton, Bury, Oldham and Rochdale, and receive referrals from Tameside Racial Equality Council for the areas of Manchester, Tameside and Stockport.

We can provide support for your clients through the following:-

- A discrimination worker/solicitor to advise and represent clients who feel they have been discriminated against in relation to employment.
- A discrimination worker/solicitor to advise and represent clients who feel they have been discriminated against in relation to the provision of services, education, housing and transport.

We can provide advice, case work and representation at Employment Tribunals and County Court level. As we are funded by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission the advice and casework we provide is free of charge, regardless of income and in particular, regardless of eligibility for Legal Services Commission funding.

### WORKING TOGETHER

Given this, we feel it is important for us to work together with other local organisations to achieve these aims. We should therefore like to build up a network of referrals and meetings between the Law Centre other local organisations dealing with this kind of discrimination.

### TRAINING

Rochdale Law Centre offer training courses around these equality and discrimination issues for front line advisors and volunteers from local organisations and for other organisations working with discriminated against groups. One of our popular courses is 'Spotting the issues', helping organisations to identify when clients or service users may have suffered unlawful discrimination. Our courses can be run at venues convenient to your organisation.

### SUCSESSES

The project has already has successful outcomes for clients a few examples of these are on the next page.

### PLEASE CONTACT TEAM IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE A CASE.

**The Equalities Project Team** is Bernie Culshaw – Solicitor, James Tinston, and Rachel Mahon.  
The team can be contacted on **01706 657850**

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### CASE STUDIES OF SOME OF OUR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

#### Services

A disabled client was refused assistance by Tesco in inflating her tyres at their garage. They then introduced a national policy refusing help to anyone including disabled people. In a nationally reported case the project won a claim of disability discrimination for the client.

A client with muscular dystrophy who was a wheelchair user had difficulty visiting friends because of long term disrepair to a lift at Piccadilly station. Following a combination of written representations and, then, publicity on youtube and in the Sun, the lift was repaired.

#### Housing

A client with cerebral palsy was on the waiting list for suitable housing for nearly 4 years. Following the ROBB Project involvement and a county court claim a suitable property was quickly found for the client and £3000 compensation agreed.

#### Education

A registered blind client wanted to attend the local college. The college failed to make reasonable adjustments to enable their attendance. Following the ROBB Project involvement and conciliation the problems the student faced were rectified and the college changed policies. The client was awarded substantial compensation.

#### Employment

A client was unable to walk without pain or a walking stick. Their employer removed a parking pass which made accessing work difficult. The ROBB project prepared a grievance for this client complaining of a failure to make reasonable adjustments. The parking pass has now been returned to the client.

#### Education

A client with learning difficulties was attending college but found that the college did not make reasonable adjustments to change the learning and exam conditions to suit this students needs. The ROBB Project worked so that the student's needs were met by the college.

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