

Disability Law Service

Fighting injustice for disabled people

AUTUMN 2025/WINTER 2026 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Disability Law Service's quarterly newsletter.

Disability Law Service – also known as DLS – is a user-led Disabled Persons' Organisation which provides a free and vital service covering the areas of housing, community care, employment and welfare benefits to some 4,000 Disabled People each year. With almost half of people in poverty in the UK being a Disabled person or living in a household with a Disabled person, our free service improves access to justice and the protection of legal rights for Disabled People over the course of many years.

This issue contains updates from DLS, successful outcomes we've achieved for our clients and key developments in the sector.

Updates from DLS

- We recently celebrated our 50th anniversary with an event honouring our history and the people who have supported us throughout the decades.
- We are delighted to announce that we were nominated for both Best Team and Best Individual categories in this year's Advising London Awards—recognition that reflects the dedication and excellence of our colleagues
- The next Community Care Forum meeting is scheduled for February 2026. The exact date will be confirmed in due course. Further details will be provided once available.

How to Find Us

www.dls.org.uk / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

Call us on 0207 791 9800

Get Involved

You can make a vital contribution to the work we do at DLS by [volunteering](#), [donating](#), or by [receiving training from us](#).

50 YEARS OF DISABILITY LAW SERVICE

For 50 years, Disability Law Service has worked for an equal and accessible society for Deaf and Disabled People. We provide free legal advice in areas like employment, housing, benefits, discrimination, and public law. Helping thousands every year. Many Deaf and Disabled People face poverty and discrimination, making this support essential.

We also campaign to improve laws and protect rights. Thanks to our staff, volunteers, and partners, we've made a lasting difference—and we are proud to celebrate 50 years of empowering those who need it most.

In the 1970s, Disability Law Service began as part of a parents' group advocating for people with learning disabilities. It soon became an independent organisation providing legal support for Deaf and Disabled People. Over time, it helped ensure access to education, housing, and community services. By 1979, it was formally incorporated as a charity, marking the start of its role as a vital legal resource for Disabled People nationwide.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the organisation adapted to new laws and secured funding to hire a specialist in disability rights. This led to creating a group that trained others and fought discrimination. By the late 1990s, it expanded to offer advice on community care, education, employment, consumer rights, and benefits—supporting Disabled People where it matters most.

In the 2000s, the organisation grew, winning key legal victories and helping shape disability laws. It moved to The Foundry in the 2010s and continues to uphold its mission. In 2014, a landmark ruling confirmed that cutting care support can breach human rights, reinforcing the principle that dignity and independence come first.

In the 2020s, the organisation grew from a local centre to a national leader in defending Disabled People's rights. It strengthened frontline services, secured more legal aid, and partnered with community groups to create legal hubs. It also trained charities and businesses to improve understanding of disability rights. Looking ahead, it plans to launch a network of organisations working together for equal access to justice. After 50 years, the commitment to Disabled People's rights remains as strong as ever.

Our Story, Through Our People

“It can sometimes be a challenge knowing that I am only able to address symptoms not the root cause” (DLS STAFF)

Your support through it all gave me the stability and hope I desperately needed. Your kindness meant more than I can say” (DLS CLENT)

“Proud of Community Care advice as very few organisations do this” (DLS STAFF)

[A Success Story from the Welfare Benefits / MS Tea](#)
