

## **North Wales – Community Legal Advice Network**

Over last few months the Legal Services Commission (LSC), with the authority of the North Wales Chief Officers' group within the "Making the connections umbrella", has been in discussions with officials in local authorities in North Wales, namely Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham, about jointly commissioning a Community Legal Advice network. Although these discussions have been taking place for some time no decision has yet been taken about whether to proceed with this initiative.

The current plan is to commission an independent piece of research into existing legal advice provision and client need across the six local authorities. This will encompass both "in-house" local authority advice services and those provided by external organisations through local authority funding or legal aid. In the course of producing this research we will ensure that advice providers, stakeholders and other interested parties, including service users, are fully consulted. The consultation process will include an open meeting for stakeholders similar to those that have been held in other areas and discussions with local advice networks and partnerships where they exist.

Once the research has been concluded recommendations on whether to proceed with this initiative will be made to each local authority cabinet. It is not anticipated that any new service would be in place before April 2010. For more information please contact Emma Rouse at [emma.rouse@legalservices.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rouse@legalservices.gov.uk) or the named contact at your local authority.