

Transcript for Nezahat CEO of London Legal Support Trust

Hi. Almost there! I am Nezahat, the CEO of London Legal Support Trust. Thank you so much for taking the time to help us raise life-changing funds for access to justice. Hope you enjoyed the scenic route and are looking forward to the street party.

Years of funding cuts, increased demand, and a lack of infrastructure investment have contributed to a massive skills shortage in the social welfare advice sector. Alongside organising this fantastic event, we work in collaboration with over 21 like-minded agencies to respond to these skills shortages by developing and funding training positions, such as legal apprenticeship schemes, which create perfect opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to fulfil their ambition of becoming lawyers.

Together with our partners, we have conducted research on pay and conditions, as well as the use of the Apprenticeship Levy, in response to skill shortages. We are also exploring the development of organisational capacity in advice agencies to ensure their continued viability.

Our plans include helping our partners develop better coordination of advice provision in London, promoting better pay and conditions for social welfare advisors, increasing funding for free legal advice, and developing pilots that recruit a new generation of social welfare advisors. Thank you for helping us to help over 100 social welfare charities to keep their doors open to thousands of desperate people who cannot afford to pay to access justice.

Look forward to seeing you at the street party.