



Strategy

2025-2027

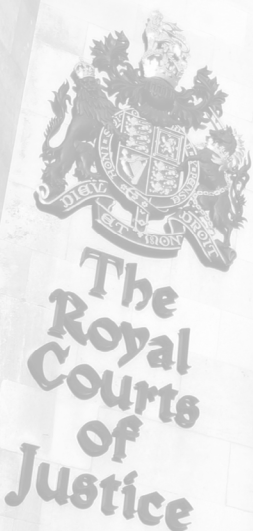
Our vision

A society where everyone can access justice, supported by strong and growing legal pro bono.

- A legal community where pro bono is a visible, valued, and embedded part of professional practice.
- A connected and collaborative sector that maximises resources and avoids duplication.
- A sustainable ecosystem where pro bono complements legal aid and other essential services to meet unmet legal need.

Our mission

The National Pro Bono Centre (NPBC) is dedicated to enhancing access to justice through pro bono, by supporting charities and initiatives that deliver pro bono, promoting effective delivery of pro bono, and developing connections within and across the pro bono sector.



Who we are

The NPBC's purpose is to support both the organisations that facilitate pro bono work and the legal professionals who deliver it. We provide support to cross-sector initiatives and a wide range of charities to remove barriers to pro bono and help it grow.

In 2025, together with JUSTICE and Advocate, we launched The Justice Hub – a new shared workspace in London created to foster collaboration, innovation, and increased impact across the access to justice sector.



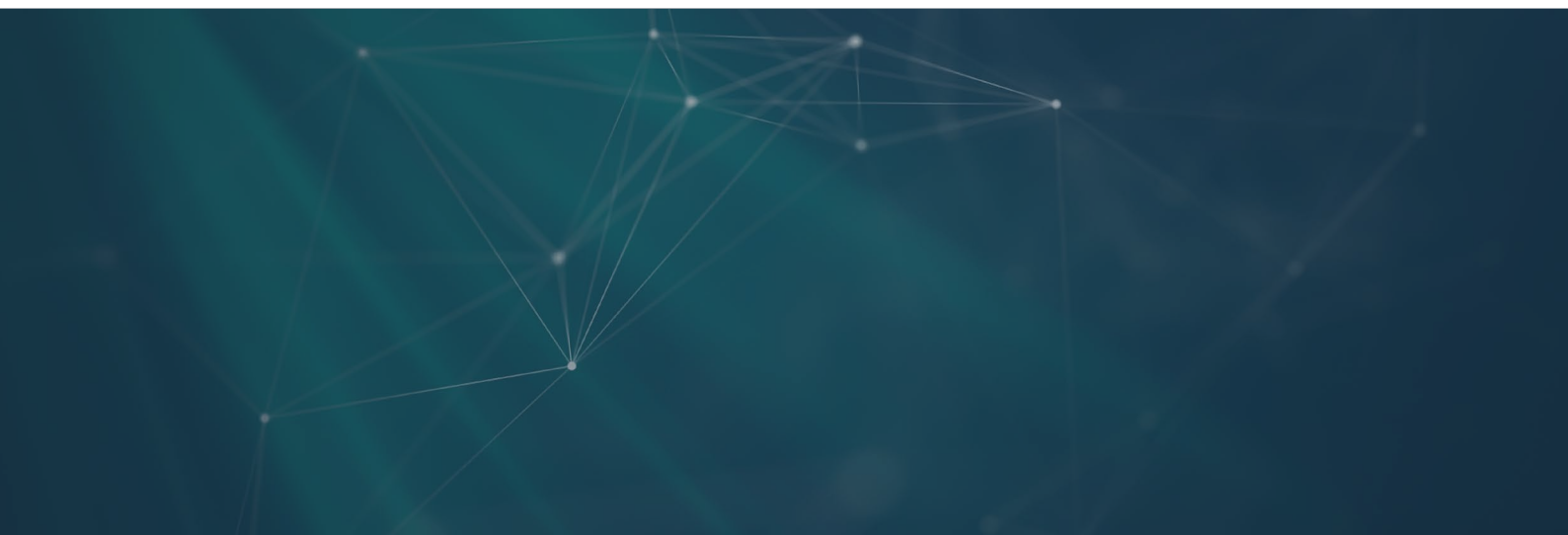
Why we are working to increase access to justice for all

Millions of people across the UK are facing serious legal problems but can't afford legal advice. At the same time, pro bono charities are under extreme pressure. The broader charity sector is in crisis, with rising costs, funding cuts and stretched staff and volunteer capacity. Legal advice agencies are turning people away every day because they don't have the resources to meet demand. The cost-of-living crisis has made this worse. More people are falling into poverty, homelessness, or other difficulties, and many do not know where to turn. Justice is out of reach for many.

Many pro bono charities are not well connected to others across the sector which increases the potential for unnecessary duplication at a time their resources are stretched.

We hear from legal professionals who want to do pro bono, but face barriers and lack suitable pathways.

That's where the NPBC comes in - connecting, signposting, and strengthening the the pro bono sector so more people can benefit from legal support.



Our strategic priorities

1. Strengthen connections between organisations and people in the pro bono community

- a. Strengthen links between pro bono charities, professionals and supporting organisations.
- b. Foster communication and the sharing of best practices.
- c. Expand support to regional networks.

2. Support the charities that deliver pro bono:

- a. Understand the needs of the sector through ongoing engagement.
- b. Collaboratively develop and share practical resources, training and tools.
- c. Provide physical infrastructure and a central home via The Justice Hub.

3. Connect legal professionals to opportunities:

- a. Make pro bono pathways easier to access.
- b. Host and enhance our Volunteer Portal.
- c. Connect legal professionals with useful guides, resources and contacts.

Our strategic priorities

Below are some of our projects for 2025–2027. Each initiative contributes to one or more of our strategic priorities.

Activity/project	Description	Outcomes (end of 2027)	Key Objective Supported
Pro Bono Expert Support	Delivered with Pro Bono Connect, this service connects lawyers with specialist service providers on pro bono cases.	Expanded access to expert legal support for pro bono cases.	1, 2, 3
In House Pro Bono Pledge	Working with In House Pro Bono Group and GC100 to encourage in-house lawyers to commit to pro bono.	Greater in-house participation and structured support.	3
Regional Pro Bono Support	Strengthening regional committees and networks through direct human resource and expertise.	Stronger local engagement and presence across England and Wales.	1, 2
The Justice Hub	Collaborative shared workspace in central London established by the NPBC, JUSTICE and Advocate, for use by pro bono and other legal charities.	A fully utilised space, with high-quality technology, where pro bono charities maximise a collaborative working environment to address barriers to pro bono and enhance ways of increasing access to justice. A space used for events and other sector opportunities, including training provision based on identified needs, and facilitating other ways to connect. A visible, daily reminder of pro bono for key parts of the profession.	1, 2
Vulnerable Clients Project	Supporting the wellbeing of lawyers and pro bono charity staff handling sensitive cases.	Regular training sessions, either remote or in-person at the Hub, that provide tips and tools to pro bono lawyers to support their own wellbeing. Better supported lawyers = better outcomes for clients.	2

Activity/project	Description	Outcomes (end of 2027)	Key Objective Supported
Impact Projects	Project with NCVO examining how pro bono charities measure and communicate the impact of pro bono.	Initially to be piloted with two pro bono charities, tools will be produced that will support pro bono charities to improve impact measurement.	1, 2
	Project with Pragmatix to capture quantitative data about pro bono.	Clearer data on pro bono trends to inform decision-making and advocacy.	2
Case Studies Scheme	Helping pro bono charities develop and share real-life stories.	Pro bono charities securing more pro bono volunteers and more funding through telling their stories and raising their profiles.	2
Pro Bono Week	National campaign to raise awareness and participation. The NPBC contributes to organising, planning and provides funding as well as events and communications support from the staff team.	Increased engagement and sector-wide collaboration aligned with the agenda set by the Pro Bono Week Organising Committee.	1, 2, 3
Pro Bono Connect	Financial and practical support to this collaborative initiative.	Sustained, scaled and effective service linking barristers and solicitors.	1
Community Development	Connecting pro bono charities and professionals across the UK.	A stronger, more coordinated network with shared learning and maximised resources. The Hub, as a central location for in-person collaboration, will be key to developing this network.	1
Volunteer Portal	Online platform for listing and finding pro bono opportunities.	A user-friendly, widely used virtual hub for legal pro bono. The website will also undergo a more general update to ensure a clearer focus with helpful signposting for pro bono charities and legal professionals.	1, 2, 3
Guides and resources	Developing practical, tailored guidance for different types of legal professionals where clear gaps exist - and amplifying pro bono resources created across the wider legal sector. Supporting the the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee with its work.	More legal professionals equipped and confident to do pro bono.	2

How we work

Collaboration is at the heart of the pro bono sector, and it's central to our approach too. We work closely with a range of stakeholders across key projects to increase access to justice by investing in under-developed areas while also making the best use of the sector's resources and avoiding repetition.

We have developed strong relationships with multiple pro bono charities over the years, with whom we are in regular communication to identify what support is needed. We are regular participants in working groups as well as in more informal meetings across the sector. We are working to increase outreach to other charities and organisations who are facilitating pro bono to assess needs and barriers to growth so that we can provide appropriate help; fostering better connected and coordinated pro bono delivery.

We raise funds from sources not typically available to individual charities, ensuring that we support (rather than compete with) their sustainability. In fact, some of the support we give is designed to improve the success of those charities in raising resources themselves.

Through our close relationship with The Commercial Litigators' Forum and the GC100, we also maintain close links with legal professionals in addition to service providers. Knowledge gained from these relationships contributes to how we shape our work, so that we know what work the NPBC needs to be doing to signpost more lawyers into pro bono and, where appropriate, to mitigate any identified structural barriers.

The launch of The Justice Hub in 2025 reinforces our commitment to collaboration: it's a shared space where charities can meet, train, and work together to advance access to justice and strengthen the rule of law.

The background of the entire page is a deep teal color. Overlaid on this is a complex, abstract network of thin white lines. These lines connect several small white circular nodes. The nodes are positioned at various points, with a notable cluster of lines radiating from a single node in the upper right quadrant, and other nodes scattered across the upper half of the image, creating a sense of interconnectedness and structure.

The National Pro Bono Centre

Registered charity 1137708

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