

Local charity offering free legal advice for people with autism



Picture: The Autism Hub is located in the Liberty Shopping Centre (credit: Sycamore Trust)

An autism charity is offering a free legal advice service for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Sycamore Trust, which operates in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge, is working in conjunction with the University of East London and Duncan Lewis Solicitors to provide the surgeries.

The law clinic is open to everyone with ASD, with advice offered on issues such as housing, child care and employment.

The clinic operates every Wednesday from 10am at the Autism Hub in the Liberty Shopping Centre in Romford.

Steve Dixon from the Sycamore Trust said: "It's a unique collaboration with the UEL and Duncan Lewis solicitors and we're exceptionally grateful for their work, which is pro bono, and we've been able to help some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

"Their time is very valuable so you do need to make an appointment. We're running these clinics throughout October and November and into December on childcare, on employment, on housing and these are all areas that the Autistic community do need some help and guidance with.

"You take for example housing, whereby a person with ASD may be being evicted and not being given enough notice; they perhaps wouldn't know how to handle that in the same way that someone else might say 'well I'm not putting up with that.'

"These aren't things that come easily to autistic people who sometimes find it

quite difficult to communicate and find social situations to be quite stressful – especially if they're under a bit of pressure – so it's a very useful service.

Clinic dates for the coming weeks are as follows:

Wednesday 24th October 2018: Housing

Wednesday 31st October 2018: Child care

Wednesday 7th November 2018: Employment

Wednesday 14th November 2018: Housing

Wednesday 21st November 2018: Child care

Wednesday 28th November 2018: Employment

Wednesday 5th November 2018: Housing

To make an appointment at the Autism Law Clinic, call Debbie on 020 8517 9317 or email familyservices@sycamoretrust.org.uk

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