

# PLES Task Force meeting 30 January 2006

## Decisions and Actions

### 1. Working title/brand

Dan's tabled paper proposed a new acronym and a strapline. Members agreed to comment on both and/or to draft their own preferred versions. Dan proposed:

Suggested acronym: *PLEAS - public legal education and support* – hence the PLEAS Task Force. The possible association with the word "plea" from criminal law was the only reservation expressed.

Strap line for PLEAS work: *"helping people to make the law work for them and for others"*

Please comment in good time for the final version to be included in our website, which we hope will be operating by the end of February.

### 2. Scope and definition of PLE

Members to comment on /agree a definition of PLE based on the longer definition in Dan's tabled paper. Dan has submitted a revised version, taking comments at the meeting into account:

*"Public legal education is part of an effective legal system which provides the knowledge and information to help people gain the skills and confidence to:*

- *recognise that they have a legal right which they can exercise or a legal responsibility which they must assume;*
- *recognise when a problem or conflict is a legal one, when a solution is available and where to get help finding out about it ;*
- *make the right choices, with advice when necessary, on how to deal with the issue; and*
- *guide themselves, with appropriate help, through a process that they understand and can participate in."*

Please let me know if this is now OK in good time for inclusion on the website, which we hope will be operating by the end of February.

### 3. Working Groups

Two working groups were established – on structure and on content and delivery – based on Dan's tabled paper. Both will decide and plan their

own work and work methods, starting from the examples of aspects of each set out in the paper. Groups will report back on progress to the 15 March meeting. John will support the work of both groups.

#### Working Group 1 – Structure

Dan Mace – Leader  
Steve Brooker  
Paul Burton  
Jane Frost/Atul Sharda  
Katie Ghose  
Alison Hannah  
Emma Knights  
Martin Partington  
Other DCA – Jane to nominate

#### Example of structure issues were:

- clarifying the vision and advocating and winning the case for PLEAS;
- getting the message over to stakeholders including potentially business;
- linking with other initiatives especially Government ones;
- mainstreaming PLEAS on a sustainable basis through Appropriate mechanisms;
- developing a communications strategy large and small,
- developing concrete, realistic and sustainable outcomes,
- benchmarking PLEAS with opinion formers;
- evaluating outcomes; and, of course
- costing and funding sources and related accountability.

#### Working Group 2 – Content and Delivery

Martin Jones - Leader  
Nony Ardill  
Mike Noakes/Julie Davis  
James Kenrick  
Keith Ajegbo  
Nick O'Brien  
Chilli Reid  
Vicki Chapman  
Judy Walker  
Richard Grimes  
CLS Direct person  
Other DCA – Jane to nominate

#### Example of content and delivery issues were:

- identifying and consulting potential deliverers including government departments, lawyers, law schools and other advice agencies;

- identifying and consulting the range of potential audiences and methods of provision-especially for the disadvantaged or the unaware; for example use of extended schools to reach parents and communities;
- evaluating/considering evidence as to impact of existing provision;
- identifying the skills and confidence building issues and content and delivery methods for that;
- considering quality control issues;
- clarifying the relationships between the various purposes of PLEAS with different sorts of content and different means of delivery-what works!

#### **4. Mapping**

Further mapping of initiatives, evaluations and so on, including setting out models of what works and what does not work, will be the responsibility of the Content and Delivery Group.

All TF members agreed to contribute by identifying examples of good practice and of models/approaches to PLE that do not work.

#### **5. Website**

Quotes are being obtained from web design companies and the website will be set up as soon as possible. John dealing

#### **6. Sky Legal**

The Content and Delivery group will contact SKY TV about our work for possible broadcast on their new legal channel. First date of airing is 20 February.

#### **7. Other members**

The absence of members from either EOC or CRE was discussed with concern.

John will make further contact with the CRE and EOC about joining the TF

#### **5. Public events**

Two types of events were agreed in principle: the first will be a launch, late afternoon, with speeches and mingling; the second more of a seminar, with more content, once the TF has progressed in its work.

## **6. Communications brief**

A short paper will be drafted setting out the key messages of the Task force to its different audiences, for all members to use in their external contacts, and for a launch. This could form the basis of a regular update via the website.

John to action in consultation with members.

## **7. Issues paper**

A longer paper, setting out the main issues for the TF and for PLE, is needed. This paper will be the basis of the seminar-type public event later on.

The issues paper will develop based on the work of the two groups, over the next few months

John Seargeant  
PLES Task force Project Manager  
john.seargeant@btinternet.com  
020 7274 1082  
07970 207977