**Report (interim) on StreetLaw**

**as at**

**10 July 2023**

StreetLaw was launched (from within CETI) in May 2023. One of its USPs is that it (already) has forged strong links with Westminster Law School.

Locating the project within a wider context, StreetLaw is about providing legal education to members of the public. It was originally created in the USA in the 1970s[[1]](#footnote-1). What informed its creation were 'access to justice' principles and a desire in meeting any unmet legal needs within local communities. Nowadays, the project has grown and is well-known internationally[[2]](#footnote-2) to the extent that it is deployed in various Law schools in both the UK[[3]](#footnote-3) & USA[[4]](#footnote-4) since its inception.

However, to my knowledge, UoW has yet to set up this project within its Law school or elsewhere. Yet it is closely aligned with the work of the university’s Legal Advice Clinic. I have already contacted Anna Steiner (interim Law clinic director) who tells me that the Law school does not run a StreetLaw project as such. However, it has recently started running a new project which is a combination of StreetLaw and a pop-up clinic with the St Pancras Community Centre. Here the Law students give a presentation on an area of law and the supervising solicitor (for that clinic area) then gives several people face to face advice with the Law students observing. Anna also tells me that my proposed project is something that should/could be aligned with the Law School's clinic and is something that has been discussed (within the clinic) previously.

The project will be aimed at Foundation Year Law students (with a possible extension into Level 4 LLB).

Recently, Dr Andy Pitchford has informed me that CETI has a potential partner suited to the project: the Young Westminster Foundation[[5]](#footnote-5). They are an umbrella organisation for youth groups in the City of Westminster. It is possible that they could serve up various locations for StreetLaw. Accordingly, they could really enhance the project.

The StreetLaw advert placed for Foundation Year (FY) students’ attention read as follows:

Call for Students-as-Partners

Dear students,

Would you like to be involved in an exciting new Law project called **StreetLaw?**

The StreetLaw project is about providing legal education to members of the public e.g. by you delivering (in small teams) an interactive presentation to school pupils on an area of the Law. Accordingly, we are looking for a team of students-as-(Law)-partners.

What informs its creation are 'access to justice' principles and a desire in meeting any unmet legal needs within our local communities.

The project is aimed at Foundation Year Law students only[[6]](#footnote-6).

The StreetLaw project will give you opportunities to:

a) make a difference in your local communities e.g. at a local school

b) engage outside of your course and make an impact locally

A financial bursary of up to £150[[7]](#footnote-7) (and travel expenses) are available for your participation.

You can find out more about students as partners in the following link: [Students as co-creators](https://cti.westminster.ac.uk/students-as-co-creators/)

If you are interested, please send me an email at**s.peck1@westminster.ac.uk**with some words (up to 50) as to why you would like to take part in this project**.**

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

[Dr Stuart Peck](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/peck-stuart-0)

Given that the project is about providing legal education to members of the public, it is believed that several community groups would constitute ‘the pubic’. However, the most appropriate/non-threatening (for FY students) community groups, in my view, would be local schools. Thus, CETI envisages FY student-law-partners delivering (in pairs/small teams) an interactive presentation to London school pupils on an area of the Law that they need to know something about e.g. knife crime, sexting etc

After a (brief) drive searching for student-law-partners from within the FY cohort, three student-partners emerged. The ‘recruitment’ came from recommendations via tutors who teach on the FY Law pathway. The student-law-partners are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Suven Koc  | w1880312@my.westminster.ac.uk |
| Jessica Fesnic | w1949227@my.westminster.ac.uk |
| Anna Pisliariuk | anna.i.pisliariuk@gmail.com |

Of the three (now recruited), two partners submitted impressive expressions of interest. They read as follows:

**Student-law-partner 1**:

*Good morning. I would be delighted to take part in this exciting new project! Firstly, because of the aim itself we are creating a presentation to clarify certain aspects of the Law or educate individuals regarding a specific area. This is one of my main reasons due to knowing the importance of the law and how not everyone has had access to it or know their rights, by doing this presentation some individuals may benefit from it positively. Which leads me on to my second reason. I took into consideration the impact of this project over all towards the community itself. We will be making a difference in our communities, and it will be a step forward. Besides the outer impacts of this project, I will also be benefitting extremely from it. I will get the opportunity to work on my personal and professional skills, during the meetings with the team, during the putting together of the presentation and its planning but also through its delivery.*

**Student-law-partner 2**:

*Good afternoon. Thank you for getting in touch with me. I hope you are well. And I would like to take part in this exciting and interesting new project because I am passionate about interacting with people, educating them about law and taking part in new projects related to my future career in general. And I believe that it will not only look good in my CV, but it also will give me relevant experience and knowledge. And I am looking forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you.*

Some of the initial ideas is that we will form an informal (and the equivalent of a) Law firm partnership where we will take decisions collectively at partnership meetings. These can be online, but some can be F2F. We will decide. But I'm thinking that initially we could tap into any contacts we might have e.g. past schools/colleges who can be approached to see if they would like to take part/know something about the Law. So, I envisage school locations will be local (but travel expenses will be paid to student-partners by the project funds). It would be ideal to organise the first FY StreetLaw presentation before the schools break up in mid to late July 2023[[8]](#footnote-8)….. but, in any event, to be delivered in the Autumn term forming part of 2023/4.

We (the newly formed StreetLaw partnership) are due to have our first meeting on Blackboard collaborate to chat further/ask Qs – on Friday 14 July.

**Dr Stuart Peck**

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[CETI & Westminster Law School]

10 July 2023

1. <https://streetlaw.org/who-we-are/about/history/> (Street Law Inc., 2023) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWR-hNCzUR0> (Street Law Inc., 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/law/streetlaw/> (Swansea University, 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/courses/street-law>) (Penn State University, 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.youngwestminster.com/> (The Westminster Foundation, 2023) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This aim is now flexible as the FY Law students recruited move into level 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Awarded at the end of the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. This now may be fancifully optimistic! [↑](#footnote-ref-8)