



Community Advice and Law Service
First Floor, Epic House,
Charles Street
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30th November 2020

Dear Colleague,

Statement from CALS Staff and Board regarding our Executive Director, Kathryn Burgess

With great sadness we inform you of the death of Kathryn Burgess, CEO of the Community Advice and Law Service.

Kathryn's death is a huge shock and an immeasurable loss to us at CALS, as it is to her many colleagues within Leicester's VCS and statutory sectors. Kathryn worked at CALS and at our predecessor company, Leicester Money Advice, since its beginnings in 1979 and it is her vision, dynamism and initiative that have created the organisation as it is today.

Kathryn was a pioneer within the advice sector. Among her many achievements, she was responsible for Leicester Money Advice (as it then was) securing a permanent office in the County Court; being among the first tranche of not-for-profit advice agencies to obtain legal aid contracts; managing a contract to deliver debt advice services across the East Midlands through East Midlands Money Advice (EMMA).

Kathryn was aware of the many difficulties faced by people experiencing economic and social disadvantage and she believed that advice services should go beyond simply solving individual legal problems. Over the years, she was successful in adding welfare benefits and housing advice to the existing debt service, and more recently the MoneywisePlus and Energywise projects, which in different ways are able to offer extended support to people with multiple needs. She recognised the importance of working in partnership to improve access to justice and to maximise the impact of advice services.

It is not possible in a few words to convey the value and influence of Kathryn's work over the past 40 years and her contribution to the shaping of advice services in Leicester city and beyond. We know that she had many friends and colleagues who will share our sadness at the loss of such a powerful advocate for social justice.

Yours faithfully,

CALS Staff & Board of Trustees