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## NEWS RELEASE

**23 January 2012**

### **Camden Law Centre horrified as services to be axed**

Staff and Trustees at Camden Community Law Centre were horrified when the London Borough of Camden's Cabinet confirmed a massive cut in its services on Wednesday.

The Cabinet confirmed the loss of funding contracts for legal advice in housing, welfare benefits. The funding for employment and immigration advice will continue.

"This is a cut of over 60% of our funding," said Mahmud Quayum. "Coupled with the expected cuts in legal aid from the government, this spells disaster for the Law Centre and the people of Camden.

"We will have no choice but to drastically cut back the services we provide to the community.

"This is a sad day for the Law Centre. We have been helping the people of Camden with legal advice for over 38 years. We are part of the fabric of the Borough.

"We will be calling a public meeting soon to discuss this. In the meantime anyone wishing to help us should contact the Law Centre."

Ms Suncica Mandich, who has had housing advice from the Law Centre, added: "If the Law Centre has to stop providing these advice services there will be nowhere in our community that we can turn to for help. The only advice services available will be miles away at the other end of the Borough. It's a nightmare trying to get there on public transport. People need advice more and more these days with rising unemployment, the government's welfare reforms and less social housing available."

**For further information please contact**

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#### **Notes for editors**

- The Law Centre is currently funded by Camden Council to provide advice in the areas of welfare benefits, employment, housing and immigration.
- Parliament is currently considering the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill which proposes to remove most social welfare law (eg welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment and immigration) from the scope of legal aid.