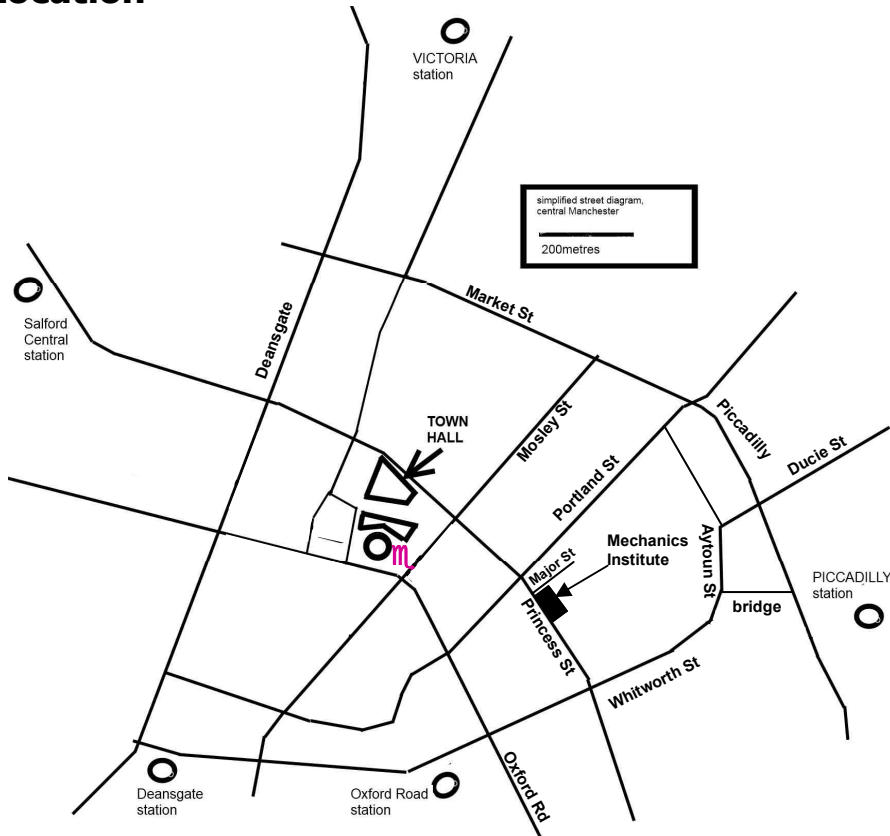


Location



Directions

- Conference Centre entrance is at the side of the building on Major St.
- Piccadilly Station is about a 10 minute walk away. To reach Whitworth St, cross the footbridge on the left outside the station front entrance, turn left down Aytoun St, turn right at the traffic lights onto Whitworth St.
- The nearest Metrolink tram stop is St Peter's Square, marked **M**.
- There is an NCP car park next to Major St.
- There are detailed directions at www.mechanicsinstitute.co.uk

Access to Advice can be contacted by email:

acesstoadvice2013@gmail.com

Further information is available on the website pages of Greater Manchester Welfare Rights Advisers Group:

<http://gmwrag.wordpress.com/access-2-advice/>

Conference: Legal Justice Together - Call for Action

Saturday 15th March 2014 at 10:00am—4:00pm
The Mechanics Institute Conference Centre,
Princess St, Manchester. M1 6DD
(Entrance at the side in Major Street)

A forum on the massive challenges to public legal advice services, bringing together practitioners and all affected by cuts in legal aid and advice provision - both criminal and civil law

- To share updates on what's happening and planned in each area of law and provision, and the impacts on our communities.
- To share experiences of strategies for maintaining services in the face of funding cuts.
- To update on current campaigns and develop actions for positive change at local, regional and national level.

Access to Advice believe in:

- the need for significant and stable funding for public legal advice provision;
- the provision of this advice through a plurality of sources, reflecting local needs as well as national priorities;
- the provision of advice should not be exploitative of people needing these services.

email: **acesstoadvice2013@gmail.com**

access to advice

Sponsored by:

- Cheetham Hill Advice Centre
- Doughty Street Chambers
- Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
- Greater Manchester Welfare Rights Advisers Group
- Green Party
- Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers
- Kenworthy's Chambers
- Northern Save Justice Campaign
- Unison
- Unite the Union
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers

Programme

9.30-10am Registration. Tea / Coffee

Morning Session

10-10:25 Welcome. Round Table discussions

10:25-11:25 **Access to Justice Now** - a national overview of cuts to legal aid and advice, criminal and civil
Mark George QC, Head of Chambers, Garden Court North
Steve Hynes, Director of the Legal Action Group
Questions and discussion

11:25-11:35 Break

11:35-12:35 Morning workshops

12:35-1:25 **Lunch break.** Tea / Coffee Sandwiches

Afternoon Session

1:25- 2.35 **Campaigning - Forward for positive change**
Lord Low, Low Commission on the future of advice and legal support on social welfare law
Denise McDowell, Director Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit,
Rhona Friedman, Justice Alliance
Questions and discussion

2.35-2:45 Break

2:45-3.40 Afternoon workshops

3:40-4.00 **Legal Justice Together**
Campaign points and summary

Share information, ideas, experience to argue and campaign for publicly funded legal advice

Your questions, contributions and suggestions will be welcome throughout the day

Morning Workshops

Where are we at? Sharing information on legal aid and other funding cuts, impacts on our communities and our organisations, strategies for survival

Domestic violence, immigration, housing
Overview of advice cuts, impacts and issues

Welfare, disability and mental health
Overview of advice cuts, impacts and issues

Strategies for survival

Maintaining services with alternative or transitional provision, issues and challenges

Issues for criminal legal advice

Legal aid cuts and changes, impacts. Links with civil law issues.

Afternoon Workshops

Call for action - forward for survival and positive change
Sharing and developing ideas for campaigning and action

Influencing politicians and decision makers

Nationally and locally - manifestos, elections, select committees, consultations, commissioning.....

Collective actions

Alliances, targets for action, forms of action: social media, publicity events, gathering and using evidence and more

Challenging the threats to professional services

Loss of specialist expertise - short and long term impacts, challenging the stereotypes of legal advisers and advice services, Role of professional and national bodies

Judicial review and strategic litigation

Using judicial review, the impact of government changes, public law challenges, test cases