



Anthony Collins
solicitors

SOCIAL IMPACT
REPORT 2018

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WHO WE ARE



Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP (ACS) does remarkable things, with remarkable clients. We exist to improve lives, communities and society by working with clients who share our values to help improve the lives of their customers, clients and stakeholders.

As part of our development to become a more distinctive law firm and embed our social purpose, we have decided to produce our first social impact report. We commissioned leading social, economic and environmental value consultants, the Connectives, to help us in this process.

OUR VALUES

ACS attracts brilliant lawyers and staff who are driven by our values and passionate about our purpose and vision. The work they do makes ACS a thriving specialist law firm and justifies our national reputation for advising individuals, charities, co-operatives, housing associations, local authorities, public sector bodies and social businesses throughout the UK.

We have a clear purpose –

“TO IMPROVE LIVES,
COMMUNITIES
AND SOCIETY”





ARE PURPOSE DRIVEN

Our profits are not an end in themselves, but a means to invest back into the growth of the firm so that we can achieve more of our purpose;

SHOW RESPECT

Regardless of position; we treat everyone fairly encouraging our teams to flourish in an honest and trusting environment;

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Whether showing care and concern for our people or by building relationships with clients based on more than just a transaction;

DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

We do the right thing for our clients regardless of whether it's the best thing for us, and once we commit to something, we'll work hard to deliver;

DELIVER EXCELLENCE

Encouraging learning and development means we can provide relevant advice and include innovative solutions to our clients' problems.

WHY MEASURE SOCIAL IMPACT?

Measuring the social impact ACS has delivered will help us to improve the service we deliver to our clients, compare our achievements in the social business world, and communicate the difference we are making to attract the best staff and clients who share our values and vision.



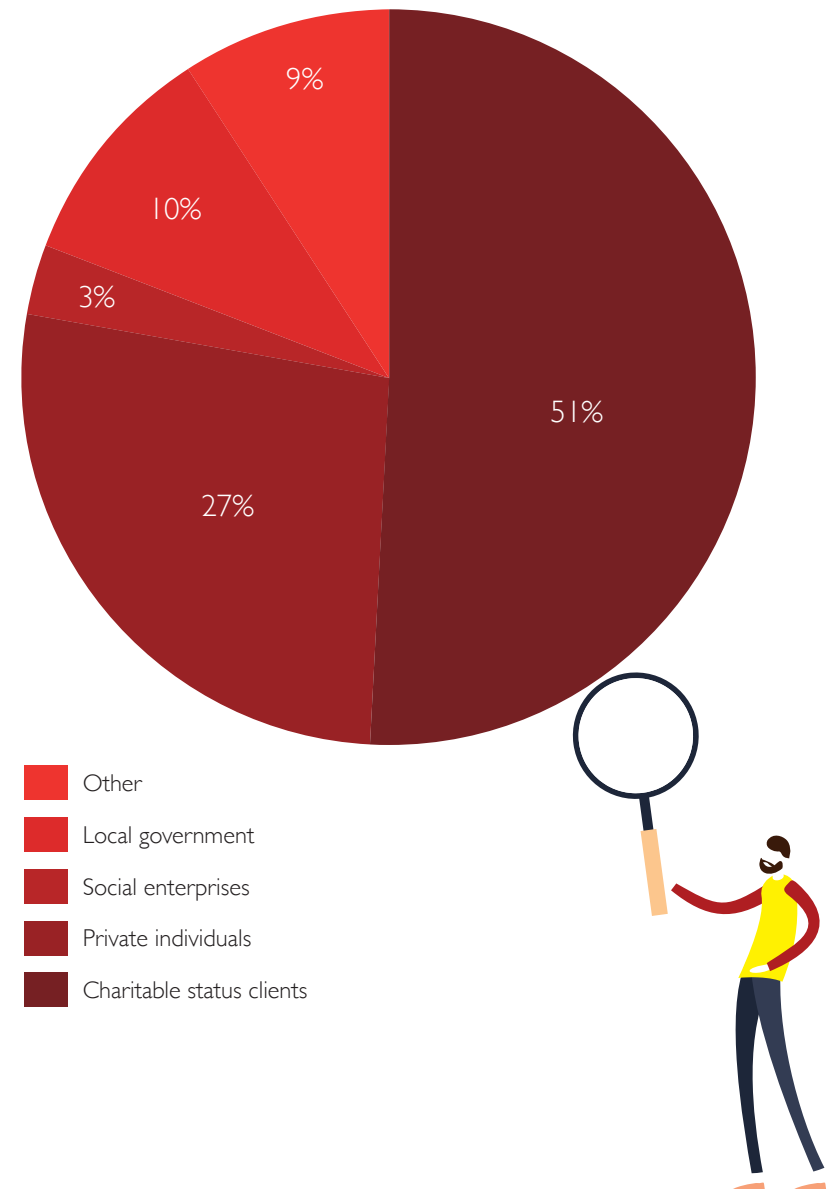
Our staff work extremely hard to help our clients and, by measuring our social impact, we can evidence the contribution we all are making. By seeing this contribution, staff and clients can be encouraged to see how, together, we are building a stronger, more connected society.

We can say that we're a social purpose law firm, but by measuring social impact, we can prove that we are a social purpose law firm. We can also show how we are achieving our purpose and compare our performance year-on-year. As a law firm, we want to be able to demonstrate the ultimate value of 'providing legal advice and support to our clients' and stand out as a unique firm.

KEY FINDINGS

- We can attribute 91% of our work in 2017/18 to directly improving lives, communities and society. This was either for individuals to improve their lives, for charitable organisations delivering a public benefit, for not-for-profits, co-operative and community benefit societies or for local authorities with statutory obligations. Of the remaining 9%, whilst commercial in status, many of these clients also had explicit social purpose aims.
- In undertaking their commission, the Connectives identified numerous examples of clients and ACS people who self-reported positive life changes resulting from advice and engagement with ACS they had not experienced elsewhere in the legal sector.
- Whilst successful as a pilot social impact study, we have identified limitations to the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology that has restricted the extent and robustness by which we can report measurable and comparable social impact outcomes on our work as a law firm.
- Culturally, many people at ACS simply get on with their work and do not stand back to reflect on how they have improved society through their own contributions. This has meant we could only capture the most obvious elements of positive social value. We will make new opportunities for our people to capture the social value they have added – to encourage them and strengthen alignment to our purpose.
- We will consider capturing how we operate as a business separately from our client work to assess how we can independently deliver social value in our own right.

BUSINESS TYPES WE WORKED WITH DURING 2017/18



Helped housing associations access
£1.2BN
new funding to build
12,240 homes
for
28,000 people

Took
4,000 homes
out of fuel poverty through new energy schemes

Put over
43,000 homes
into charge worth
£2.75BN
for housing associations to build more affordable housing

Recovered
£21M
compensation after catastrophic events

Registered
120
new charities

Safeguarded
£400M
funding in social care providers

Addressed the housing crisis – acting on over
£280M
worth of new homes

Helped
130 children
at risk to secure a safe home environment – social value over
£12M

Combated
145 anti-social
behaviour cases – social value over
£450k



SOCIAL IMPACT FINDINGS

1 IMPROVING
LIVES

2 IMPROVING
COMMUNITIES

3 IMPROVING
SOCIETY



IMPROVING LIVES

Individuals usually turn to ACS at a traumatic time in their lives; when they need to know their legal advisers have the experience and empathy to support them through their difficulties. We treat every client as an individual, getting to know their situation and aims for the future, not just the case they bring. Our relational way of working makes it easier to navigate any legal arguments that might arise and consider emotional responses to sensitive issues, providing quality advice in a caring environment.

Whether representing or advising parents on childcare and family issues or advocating for a child's voice to be heard in court, we aim to keep families together (where safe to do so) and reduce the trauma for everyone involved. Our work with Court of Protection clients protects vulnerable people from deputies who might take advantage of the situation for their own gains, and our estate planning team help people to protect their assets, setting up trusts for dependants, particularly where dependants have disabilities or require long-term care.

The settlements that we secure on behalf of clients who suffer catastrophic injuries or negligence are about more than just money; we're giving our clients financial security to cover ongoing rehabilitation, adaptations to their property, the purchase of a more suitable one or loss of earnings.



IMPROVING LIVES

“ They have the patience to unpick complex circumstances, always ready to help the clients and go the extra mile. ACS are great companions as we negotiate this complicated world. ”

Nick Shioleftou (St James Place Partnership)

“ ACS clients get a fantastic service – Donna’s team are very hands-on, she knows the clients well, and she cares about them deeply. Having this personal contact with her clients allows Donna and her team to offer support and advice that is second to none. ”

Stephen Farnfield (Frenkel Topping)

“ ACS provides us with quick legal advice that is spot-on every time. ”

Nicholas Gard (SCOPE)



RESEARCH BY
**THE CONNECTIVES
FOUND**

"By supporting children in stable, safe, home environments, they can complete their education and potentially move into employment."

"Successfully supporting and working alongside care and social workers leads to increased public confidence in their roles – so they are seen as allies rather than enemies. Families can be confident in their financial security following a catastrophic accident, personal injury or clinical negligence – and recover from any financial difficulties as a result."

"Vulnerable children are safeguarded, supported and protected from future harm."

"Individuals can afford and retain secure care packages that will endure throughout their lifetime, reducing demand on public services."



SOCIAL IMPACT FINDINGS

40 Couples

Accessed mediation to support their divorce proceedings and avoid public arguments in court

We advised clients on **prenuptial agreements,**

including **£150M** of assets

We acted as deputy to manage and avoid financial abuse of **129 people** and effectively manage assets of

£79M

£21M

of compensation was secured for clients to provide for their needs and improve their quality of life

CASE STUDY I

SAFEGUARDING THE VULNERABLE

Sandra*, a 76-year-old lady with dementia, had significant assets from years of working and inheritance from her family. Sadly, she could no longer live independently and had lost the ability to manage her own money, so her son-in-law was appointed as her attorney to manage her affairs, and she was living in a nursing home.

The nurses noticed that Sandra was wearing old and frayed nightclothes in the home and had no creature comforts. There were other reports of potential abuse and, after investigating, the Office of the Public Guardian decided to apply to Court to replace the son-in-law as the attorney, which led to the appointment of a senior lawyer at ACS as Sandra's attorney. On replacing the son-in-law, we found that he had taken about £320,000 of Sandra's money for

his benefit, reasoning that Sandra no longer had a real need for the money now she was in care and he was entitled to some of her estate under her will anyway.

Following ACS' appointment, we successfully recovered around half of the funds to meet Sandra's needs during her lifetime. We also put a statutory will in place which will, upon Sandra's death, consider the rest of the funds received by the son-in-law when distributing her estate.

This statutory will ensures he is not unjustly enriched on Sandra's death by his actions, and the other beneficiaries will receive Sandra's intentions. Given the family circumstances, and considering the adverse impact on Sandra and the wider family, we recommended not prosecuting the son-in-law on this occasion – just one example of the difficult decisions attorneys face alongside the need to balance the interests of those involved in these cases.

Sandra now has her own appointed deputy at ACS, safeguarding her money and, more importantly, safeguarding her welfare by catering for her every need. There is no longer a temptation for any of the relatives to help themselves to her money, and her finances are being managed, balancing her best interests with those of all the beneficiaries to her estate under her will.

* Names have been changed

THERE IS NO LONGER A TEMPTATION FOR RELATIVES TO HELP THEMSELVES TO HER MONEY



CASE STUDY 2

PROVIDING FOR SOMEONE AFTER YOU HAVE GONE

We supported Simon* and Tina when they were struggling with their future plans. Their main concern was their daughter, Millie, who had Down's Syndrome and lived with them. As they were getting older, they knew the day would come when they would no longer be around to care for Millie – worrying as Millie had no understanding of money and she would be very vulnerable to financial abuse without safeguards on her inheritance.

Additionally, they did not want to burden their son, Jack, with the responsibility of ensuring Millie had appropriate care for the rest of her life. They also knew that if they left all their estate to Jack to provide for Millie, should his business or marriage fail he could effectively lose both their

inheritances. An already worrying situation for Simon and Tina was further complicated by welfare benefit eligibility rules for those with Down's Syndrome and inheritance tax liabilities that could drastically reduce the sums available to pay for Millie's care.

Our team worked with tax advisors to set up a discretionary trust for the benefit of both Millie and Jack when Simon and Tina die. Neither child will be entitled to the underlying funds in the trust, but the appointed trustees can provide them with regular sums of money so they can both enjoy a high quality of life without exposure to the risk of financial abuse or the loss of their inheritance.

Simon and Tina were able to think through their wishes for the provisions for their children in different situations without tying the hands of the trustees. By writing a letter setting out their future wishes, Simon and Tina

were able to allow the trustees to exercise their discretion. As the trustees know Millie and Jack well, this reassures Simon and Tina that the trustees will consider their wishes and Millie's basic care needs once they've gone.

We also set up lifetime trusts, to which Simon and Tina are already contributing, to ring-fence funds for Millie's future care and address likely inheritance tax issues. These trusts allow them both to embrace the future with confidence, knowing they have provided for Millie, Jack and future generations.

*All names have been changed

THESE TRUSTS ALLOW THEM BOTH TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE



CASE STUDY 3

CATASTROPHIC INJURY

Our team took on a landmark case that addressed parental responsibility in road accidents caused by a third party. In a change from our usual work representing the injured party, we successfully defended a mother joined as a co-defendant to her child's compensation claim.

Our involvement came when the insurer of the defendant – a speeding driver – alleged the child's mother was to blame for the life-changing injuries her son suffered when the driver hit him because she allowed him to play in a nearby park without an adult present (even though he was with older cousins). This, they alleged, amounted to a negligent failure to care for her son. This argument had not been tested in the court before and, if the defendant had been successful,

could have had very serious consequences for the child, his mother and other injured children in the future.

We chose to represent the defendant mother due to the potential implications for individuals, communities and society if the insurance company was successful.

You can find out more about the case in our ebriefing at bit.ly/impactone.

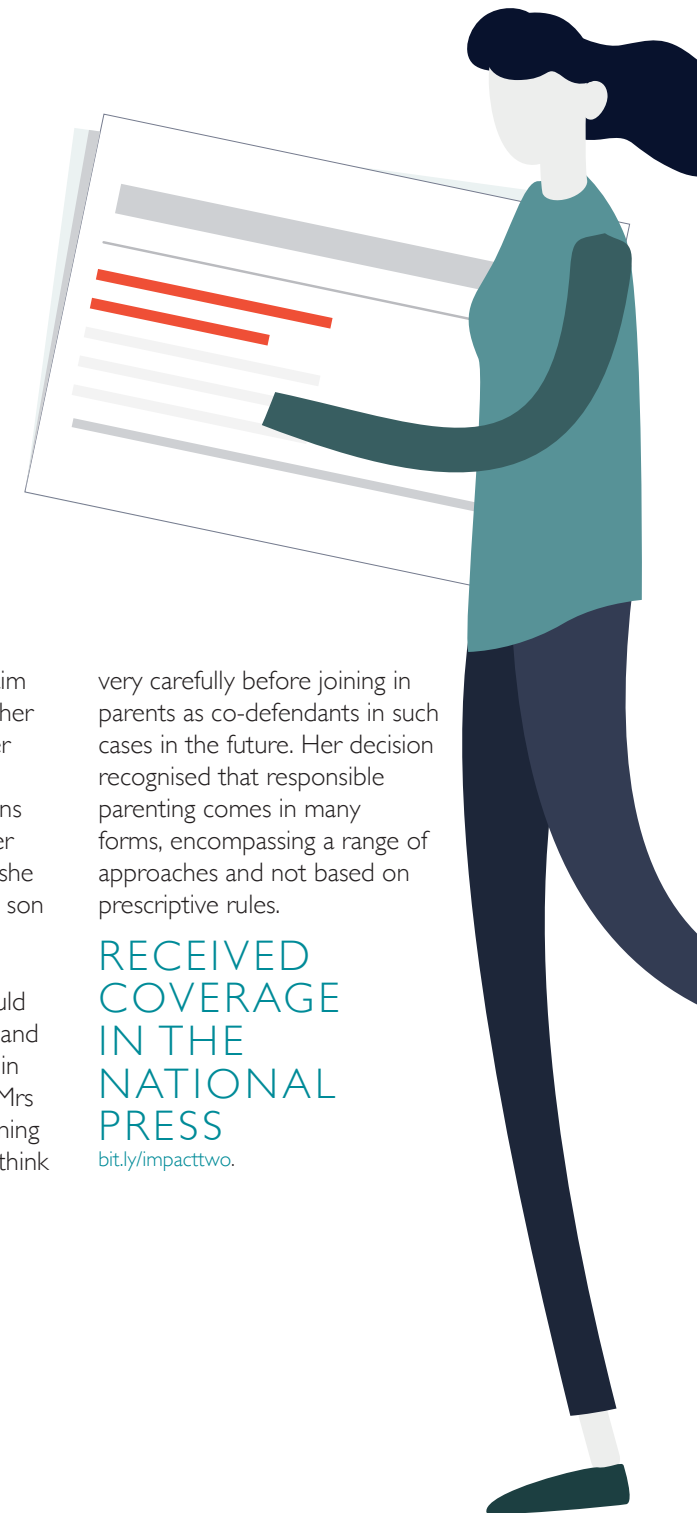
The court dismissed the claim against the mother, finding her to be “a responsible mother who took proper care” for her son's safety, which means the client will receive proper compensation for the care she has provided to her injured son over many years.

The landmark decision should also protect other children and parents in similar situations in the future. In her decision, Mrs Justice Yip gave a clear warning to insurance companies to think

very carefully before joining in parents as co-defendants in such cases in the future. Her decision recognised that responsible parenting comes in many forms, encompassing a range of approaches and not based on prescriptive rules.

RECEIVED
COVERAGE
IN THE
NATIONAL
PRESS

bit.ly/impacttwo.



IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

As part of our commitment to improving communities, we help organisations to find new and emerging ways to structure and deliver their services, including outsourcing public services, highlighting joint-venture opportunities, and maximising potential income.



Much of our work supporting communities is helping to provide the basic human needs of a safe and secure home, quality care, good education and employment opportunities. This can be through providing sustainable and affordable new homes, improved schooling, responsive local authority services and combatting anti-social behaviour.

Our clients across our sectors are often dealing with difficult and complex social issues and tackling them effectively, in new and innovative ways, can have a profound effect on the lives of families and communities.

**WE DON'T SHY AWAY FROM
DIFFICULT SITUATIONS; THIS
IS WHEN WE'RE THE MOST
CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE.**

2 IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

“ We work with ACS because they share our commitment to building sustainable communities across the country. The fact that they know the sector so well means they already understand the challenges we’re facing, so the support they provide goes further than just legal advice, they provide real solutions. I know they will help us achieve the best results for the people we work with, which is one less thing for me to worry about. ”

Sinead Butters (PlaceShapers)



2 IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

RESEARCH BY

THE CONNECTIVES FOUND

“Local authorities can reduce spend and focus on effective delivery of essential at-risk services.”

“Reduced anti-social behaviour leads to people feeling safer in their communities.”

“Improved and regenerated ‘no-go’ areas instil pride in communities.”

“Community-led businesses and services drive community engagement and improve local provision.”

“With social enterprises providing and managing health and well-being facilities, services are more efficient and deliver greater value.”



2 IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

145 possession or injunction

cases were taken against people where there was clear evidence of anti-social behaviour

4,000 households

were taken out of fuel poverty through new energy schemes



SOCIAL IMPACT FINDINGS

We established and registered **120 new charities**

We acted on the development of **3,340 new homes** worth over **£280m**

We helped housing associations support **1,045 people** buy their homes through Right-to-Buy or shared ownership

We supported **19 funding projects** to raise **£1.2bn** to build **12,240** homes for **28,000 people**

We supported the transfer of **4,421 houses** between housing associations, worth **£195m**

43,770 homes were put into charge, worth **£2.75bn** helping housing associations to build affordable housing

2 IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

CASE STUDY I

PUTTING RELATIONSHIPS FIRST TO UNLOCK PROPERTY VALUE WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

For the past 21 years, we have been working with Public-Sector Plc and their unique relational partnering model, which began as a discussion paper on new ways to develop public-private partnerships with local authorities. Public Sector Plc is now a pre-eminent business supporting councils in making more from their land and public assets, through achieving greater capital value, income streams and revenue savings.

The business now has 22 partnerships with councils in England, across all local government tiers and political control. These partnerships have been engaged in a range of ground-breaking projects, but always on the basis that the council will get better value for money than using more traditional routes.

A key tenet of the proposition is 'insourcing' — an alternative to outsourcing reflected by the idea that the private sector should add to, rather than displace, public-sector resources. It was this principle that led us to support Public Sector Plc from initial concept to where it is now and contribute to:

- The governance of the partnerships, which allows determination of matters at a senior officer/councillor level, and at an operational level, to expedite projects.
- The process that allows development of projects from concept to implementation, including validation of the legalities of a project on a case-by-case basis.
- Implementation of most of the projects, from the small and simple to the complex, to successful completion, such as Bolton Central, bit.ly/impactthree

Our help in designing the governance framework for the partnerships is a crucial feature of their model — Relational Partnering bit.ly/impactfour — playing out.

Public Sector Plc recently developed its own concept of increasing housing provision through new technologies, enabling participant councils to benefit from market rent and other tenures through a homogenised approach facilitated by Public Sector Plc, thereby addressing the current housing crisis and positively impacting communities across the UK.

THESE PARTNERSHIPS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A RANGE OF GROUND-BREAKING PROJECTS



CASE STUDY 2

BETTER LIBRARIES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) is the largest UK charitable social enterprise delivering library, leisure and community services. In 2017/18, our team supported GLL's bid to take on the provision of services for 32 libraries, including archive services across the country, 14 of which are in the London Borough of Bromley.

The Borough went out to competitive tender for an operator to run its libraries and archive services, and we advised GLL from the tender stage to completing the contract and all leases for the libraries service. We worked closely with GLL to advise on all aspects of the deal, resulting in a contract that will see GLL run all 14 libraries for the next 10 years.

In the first year of operation in Bromley, GLL measured a 17% increase in visits to the libraries (from 1.34 million to 1.57 million), an increase in book issues and children's book issues, as well as an estimated 12% increase in other library-based activities. GLL now operates libraries and archive services across Dudley Metropolitan Borough, Lincolnshire County Council, and the London Boroughs of Greenwich, Wandsworth and Bromley.



2 IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

CASE STUDY 3

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In our work with a housing association, we worked at pace to ensure they retained control of their property and tackled a case of serious anti-social behaviour.

One of the association's properties had become a magnet for drug dealing and related anti-social behaviour for months, if not years, with complaints of violent incidents both between the tenants and with their visitors and allegations of domestic violence, with the criminal behaviour often spilling out onto the surrounding streets. Drug dealing from the property was a serious problem, with countless police incidents, and there were allegations that the property was being sublet to at least five different people. Unsurprisingly, the housing officer described it as the worst case she had ever seen.

The drug dealing became so prevalent that the police executed a drug's warrant at the property where they found 300 wraps of crack cocaine/ heroin with further suspected Class A drugs, high levels of drug paraphernalia, unidentified white tablets, large amounts of cash, numerous mobiles and a very large machete. This evidence meant the police could obtain a Closure Order for the property, which was barely fit for human habitation and was unrecognisable from its condition at the start of the tenancy three years earlier.

Our team was instructed one day before the expiration of the Closure Order. On expiration, the tenants and all their visitors would have been free to re-enter the property and take up occupation again. Therefore, we successfully obtained a Without Notice Injunction with a full exclusion to keep the tenants away from the property until we could issue possession proceedings, obtain a Possession Order, and lawfully recover the property. Without this, the drug dealing and anti-social behaviour would have started all over again.

Some of the most harrowing evidence came from the neighbours who had endured years of criminal behaviour in their community from the tenants. One anonymous

neighbour was in floods of tears from what she had witnessed, on prescribed medication, and "having a nervous breakdown" due to the situation. Another told the housing association they were on anti-depressants, with other neighbours actively seeking to leave the area, potentially even abandoning their homes, saying "staying here is like being in a living nightmare; I can't take any more", and "the noise is so loud I can't think straight".

Our quick response to the expiry of the Closure Order and preventing further criminal activities helped the housing association safeguard some of their most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents and address a cause of stigma for that local community.

OUR QUICK RESPONSE HELPED SAFEGUARD VULNERABLE RESIDENTS



IMPROVING SOCIETY

We work with chief executives, membership bodies, policy advisors and government organisations to challenge key social issues or injustices and make social policy work. Our goal is to make the law as accessible as possible so that our clients can support the vulnerable and build a better society.

We support a variety of organisations and businesses across the country, from social enterprises, co-ops and values-based businesses to leading adult health and social care service providers. We write regular briefings, which we freely publish on our website, advising on changes to the law and commenting on issues that affect society as a whole.

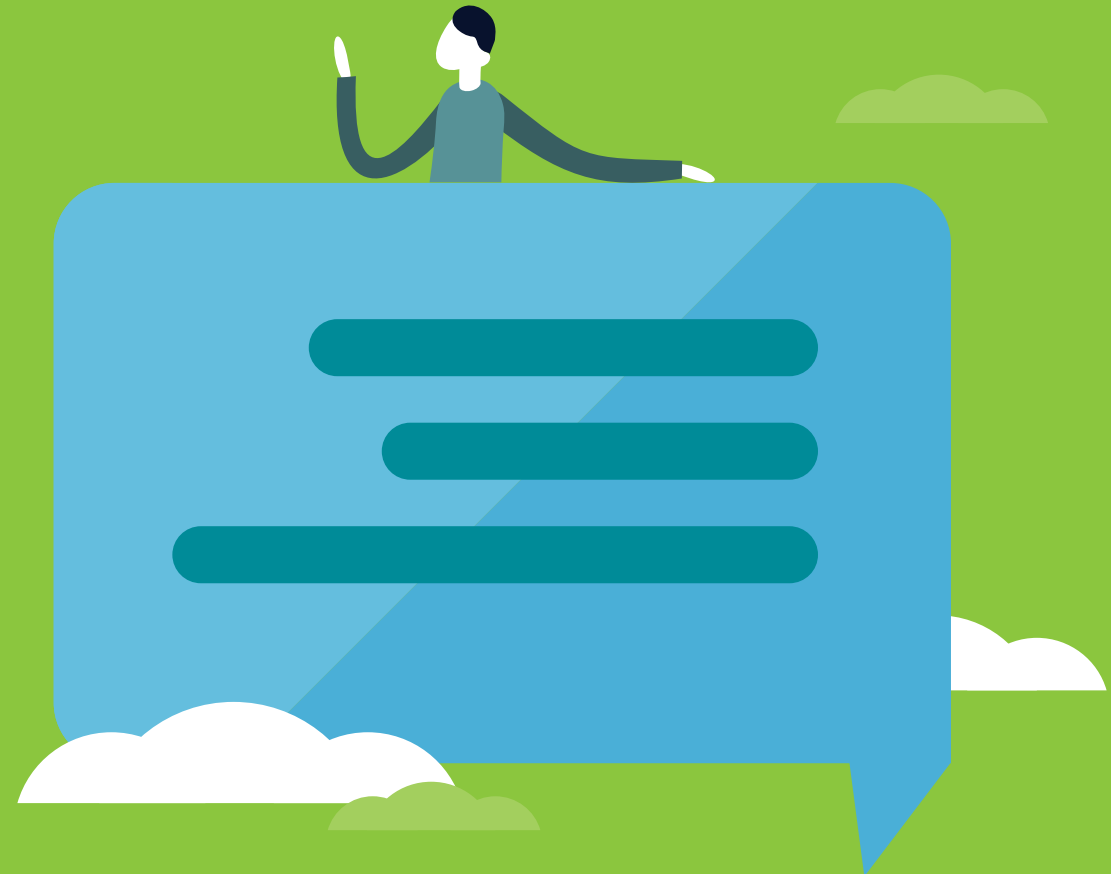
The firm offers all members of staff and partners the opportunity to take up to three days a year to volunteer for a cause of their choice, which we explain in more detail on page 29.

**OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE THE LAW
AS ACCESSIBLE AS POSSIBLE**



“ACS attended all our meetings with different representatives from the social care sector – they have genuinely engaged with the sector – they understand the operating context and our world, and there is no constant need for reminding them how the world is for us, they understand, and they support us in interpreting the law and applying it in our sector.”

John Adams OBE, Trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee,
Brandon Trust



RESEARCH BY

THE CONNECTIVES FOUND

“ACS have enabled the health and social care sector to think about where the best value is produced and to shape the future of the sector.”

“ACS have demonstrated the need for the proper valuation of the role of care workers in a society that doesn't give these people due regard.”

“Social care businesses are better able to deliver services to those most in need.”

“Individual social care workers and their clients report secure working relationships and, consequently, secure income.”

“Development of a fairer taxation system for employers and employees.”



SOCIAL IMPACT FINDINGS

Our team, acting on behalf of Care England, saved the sector **£400M** that would have been recovered by HMRC if the position of NMW compliance had gone unchallenged

We have worked with **2,642 clients** across 2017/18, and over **90%** of this activity has been with clients who deliver evidenced social value to the community

CASE STUDY I

NMW AND THE SLEEP-IN CRISIS

Up until 2014, the Government, the courts, HMRC and care providers all accepted that there was no entitlement to National Minimum Wage (NMW) for sleep-in time worked. In 2014, there was new case law that suggested NMW applied to sleep-in time, but the Government did not change the legislation. HMRC, as the enforcing body for NMW, did not change its interpretation, continuing to inspect care providers on the basis that NMW did not apply to sleep-ins – meaning care providers relied on HMRC's view as the enforcing body.

In summer 2016, HMRC changed their approach to be that NMW did apply to sleep-ins; but didn't announce this change, only enforcing it through their inspections of individual care providers. This meant care providers needed to change their arrangements

going forward, but also, HMRC retrospectively applied their change of interpretation for six years, massively impacting on tax, pensions, salaries, and previous employees. The retrospective application equated to a £400 million liability across the sector that would put providers out of business and could bankrupt some individuals privately paying for their care. This new position jeopardised the whole financial standing of the social care sector by undermining historic arrangements supported by government policy, contracts with commissioners and the enforcing authorities.

The team at ACS acted on behalf of the clients and Care England to:

(1) Challenge HMRC for their approach over backdating, which included us making a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request where the findings disclosed

HMRC's March 2016 internal guidance stating their view that sleep-in time was not eligible for NMW – seriously undermining their new interpretation.

(2) Help providers restructure their future workforces to deliver quality care in compliance with the new interpretation (and manage the risk of future liabilities).

(3) Help providers with their strategies to engage with local authority commissioners to negotiate increases in payments to reflect the additional costs.

(4) Be the intervening party in a case appealed by Mencap to the Court of Appeal. Care England is the leading trade body for all care providers with about 180 members. We argued in the Court of Appeal that the interpretation of the NMW by HMRC was wrong because the legislation confirms the opposite interpretation; there was never a Parliamentary intention for sleep-in care to be eligible for NMW, and the decision to recover back pay retrospectively on a revised interpretation was ultra vires (beyond their legal authority). Care England and Mencap won

Press coverage includes:

The Independent:
bit.ly/impactfive

The Guardian:
bit.ly/impactsix

in the Court of Appeal, but it is now under appeal at the Supreme Court.

We have advocated for proper remuneration of social care workers and called on the Government to work with commissioners and care providers to find a better, adequately funded, solution to the social care crisis. However, any solution should not be at the risk of the social care sector collapsing due to retrospectively applied interpretations; social care providers have a legitimate expectation to operate within an environment free from arbitrary and costly action by regulatory bodies. It is open to the Government to legislate on this point and clarify the eligibility of NMW for sleep-in arrangements for the future rather than leave it to the courts.

This is an example of how we advocate improving society, acting for those who are caught in the social policy space and trying to deliver quality services. We help them concentrate on their purpose by giving them the tools to resolve sometimes intractable issues.



Third sector:
bit.ly/impactseven

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

Being taken away from your family because of safety concerns can be one of the most traumatic experiences ever for a child. The Association of Directors of Children's Services recently reported that:

- The number of children in care has increased by 24% in a decade;
- 45% of care leavers aged 19-21 years were not in employment, education or training (NEETs); and
- Although half of care leavers were in some form of education, training or employment, only 6% went to university, compared to 33% of all 18-year-olds.

These statistics are why we aim to keep children with their wider birth family rather than go into care, where appropriate. Last year, the family team supported over 130 children in social-services intervention cases, speaking on the children's behalf to either stay with their family, go to extended family members or to move to safe foster or adoptive families.

We have been the CAFCASS* - appointed solicitors for children in cases involving child-murder allegations, adult murder,

deliberate injury or abuse to a child, sexual abuse, abduction to a foreign jurisdiction, radicalisation, neglect and emotional harm.

Our team has helped the courts determine the primary concern in each case – whether the implicated child has suffered or is at the risk of suffering significant harm. In each case, the team has championed the voice of the children to ensure their rights and wishes are the primary consideration for the court. We predominantly represent children from Birmingham but receive appointments from further afield, allowing us to continue our mission to offer first-class legal services to vulnerable children and their families.

Where it is safe to do so, we argue for the children to return to their parents or other family members. Where the children are at risk, we seek placement in foster care, and only when

absolutely necessary, permanent separation from their birth family through adoption.

We are awaiting publication of two judgments that concluded in the last twelve months, including a case where we represented the children of parents convicted for knife-related terrorism offences on Westminster Bridge. The team represented children in three additional complex cases published on Bailli – British and Irish Legal Information Institute.

1. Birmingham City Council, W, H, T, P London Borough of Haringey [2018] EWHC 610 (Fam)
bit.ly/impacteight

2. Wolverhampton City Council, JA and Ors [2017] EWFC 62
bit.ly/impactnine

Re: M (Children) (Suspected Trafficking: Competent Authority) [2017] EWFC 56
bit.ly/impactten

*Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service



OTHER AREAS OF SOCIAL VALUE DELIVERED

In pursuit of our social purpose, we offer our staff up to three social-purpose volunteering days per year, where they can choose a charity or organisation to help, either individually or as part of a team. Activities range from becoming school governors or charity trustees, where staff would need to use their holiday allowance, working in charity shops or helping at food banks.



Organisations we supported in 2017/18 include:



We have also provided financial support to charities through sponsorship and fundraising activities:



APPENDIX

The economic impact assessment provided is based upon Social Return on Investment (SROI) principles utilising agreed financial proxies for each social outcome evidenced. In calculating the SROI, the Connectives have used proxy values from trusted sources including central government departments and research from leading universities, as well as Housing Association Charitable Trust (HACT) who, in their own words, have 'created the largest bank of methodologically consistent and robust social values ever produced.

The enumeration of any social impact is notoriously difficult and often receives criticism from within the research and evaluation field as sources of data can be limited and have little testing. As we were keen to provide an enumerative assessment of impact we have adopted the SROI method and feel satisfied that the proxies we have selected are valid, however, as with all economic impact assessments this should be treated with caution. As noted by Arvidson et al. 2010, "In order for a comprehensive and credible SROI assessment to take place, organisations will need access to evidence based on both quantitative and qualitative data, some of which is quantifiable and some of which is not. As New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) (2010) frequently points out, there is considerable lack of evidence within the third sector as a whole, and organisations often lack data required for a comprehensive SROI". This is the case for us as we are reliant upon external proxies to assess the SROI performance of our activity.

However, we have selected the social value measures as we believe that they are provided by trusted sources and offer us the chance to add economic value to some of our activity.

To find out more about these limitations and the methodology used in this report, visit anthonymcollins.com/socialimpactreport.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank everyone who works at ACS for their commitment to our purpose, 'to improve lives, communities and society'. This report only captures a small element of the value we have brought to people's lives across the country, and there is so much more you do that makes ACS the distinctive community and law firm it is.

We would also like to thank the Connectives for their support, enthusiasm and wisdom as they have guided us through this project.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our clients, because, if they did not choose ACS as their legal advisors, we would be unable to deliver our social purpose.

