

Specialist Legal Advice Providers

360Giving for the Access to Justice Foundation, June 2022

Contents

Introduction	1
Sector Profile	2
Size and scope of the sector	2
Size of charities	3
Change over time	4
Location	5
Funding	6
Funding sources	6
Legal Aid Funding	8
Grant funding	11
Biggest funders	12
Who funds with who	14
Collaborations	15
Funding themes	17
Conclusions	18

Introduction

The [Access to Justice foundation](#) is looking at ways to harness the potential of the collaboration of funders to address opportunities, problems and gaps in the legal advice sector in a strategic way. It has been identified that in order to do this, it was important to try to map where legal advice was being funded, and by whom, and underlying trends in funding. The hope is that this might drive some strategic giving to address gaps.

[360Giving](#) was commissioned to support this analysis as a starting point to facilitate these discussions and to provide potential data support for the wider collaboration.

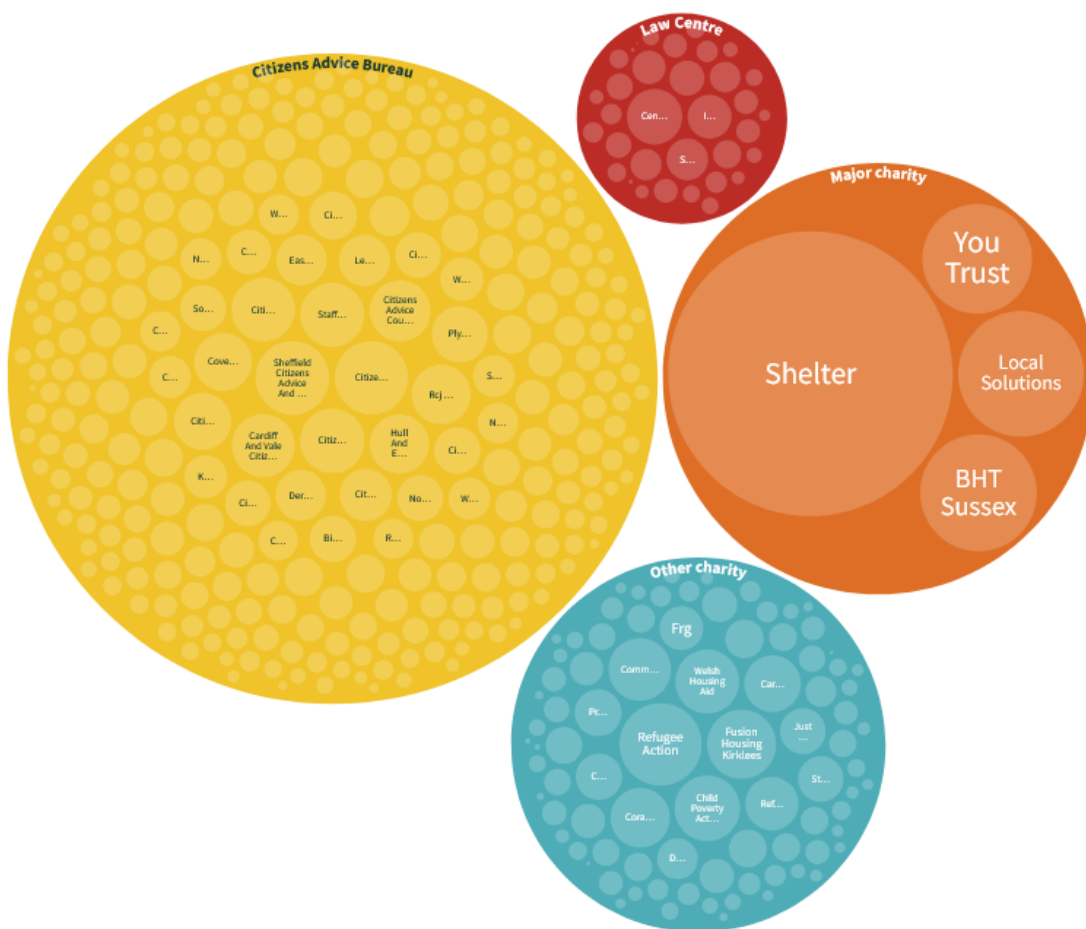
The report focuses on England and Wales only as better quality data is available for analysis - but it is recognised that many of the funders are UK wide in scope. Definitions of specialist legal advice were provided by Access to Justice Foundation who also reviewed the list of organisations to be included in the research.

Sector Profile

Size and scope of the sector

There are 432 registered charities that provide specialist legal advice in England and Wales identified in our data, with total income of around £421m in 2019-20 (the latest available full financial year in January 2022 when the analysis was undertaken). In addition to this, there is one charitable organisation that is not registered with the Charity Commission that provides specialist legal advice but has not been included in this profile - the Merseyside Law Centre.

The four major organisations with more than £10m annual income make up one quarter of total spending by the sector. However, it should be noted that this represents the total spending of these organisations, not just spending on specialist legal advice services.



<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8573370/>

For the purposes of this analysis, we have split the sector into four groups:

- 288 Citizens Advice Bureaux (not including the National Association) make up 67% of the specialist legal advice organisations
- 44 Law Centres

- 4 major charities whose latest annual income was greater than £10 million
- 96 other charities with income below £10 million

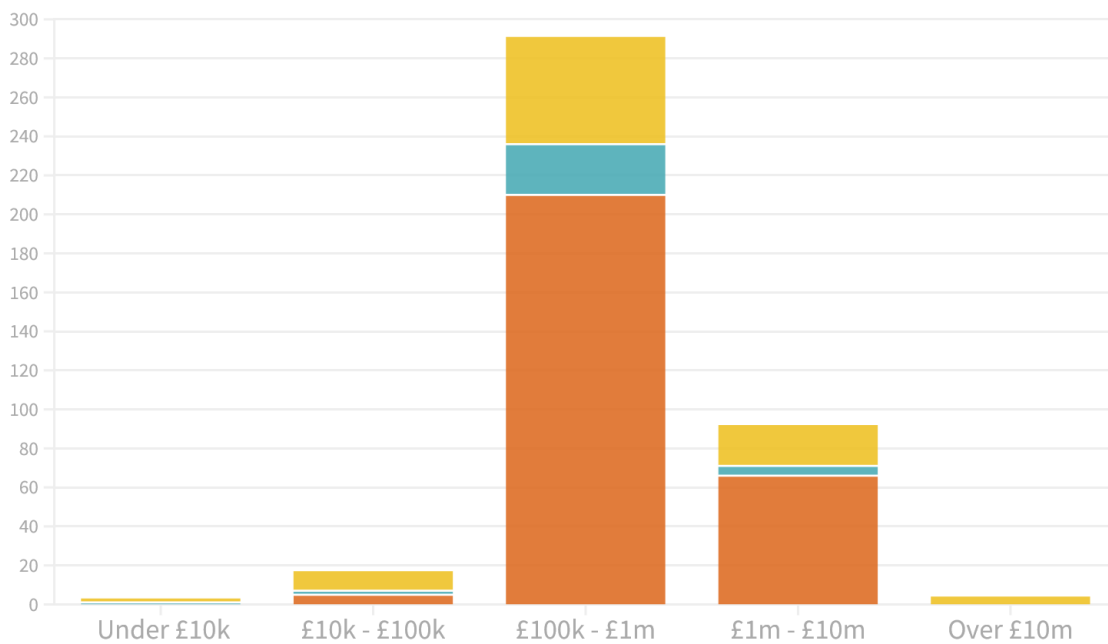
Size of charities

Two-thirds of charities in this analysis have an annual income of between £100,000 and £1 million, with a further 23% having between £1 million and £10 million.

Size of specialist legal advice providers

Number of charities, by latest income

■ Citizens Advice Bureau
 ■ Law Centre
 ■ Other charity



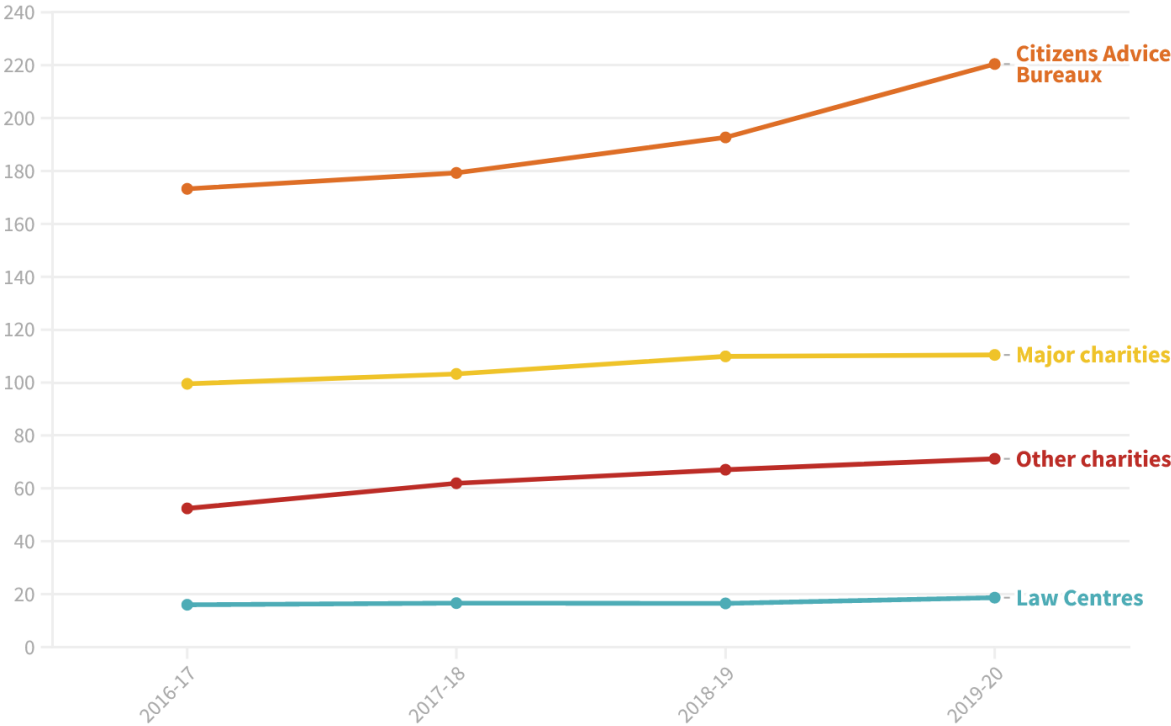
Source: 360Giving analysis of Charity Commission data

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8575552/>

Change over time

The data below shows changes in incoming resources over the previous four years. These figures show growth (in cash terms - not accounting for inflation) in the total income of the four groups of charity over that time, with Citizens Advice Bureaux growing by 30% (in cash terms).

Total income of specialist legal advice providers £million, 2016/17 - 2019/20



Source: 360Giving analysis of Charity Commission data • Figures not adjusted for inflation. Based on income of charities active in 2021. May not include charities that closed in previous years.

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8591161/>

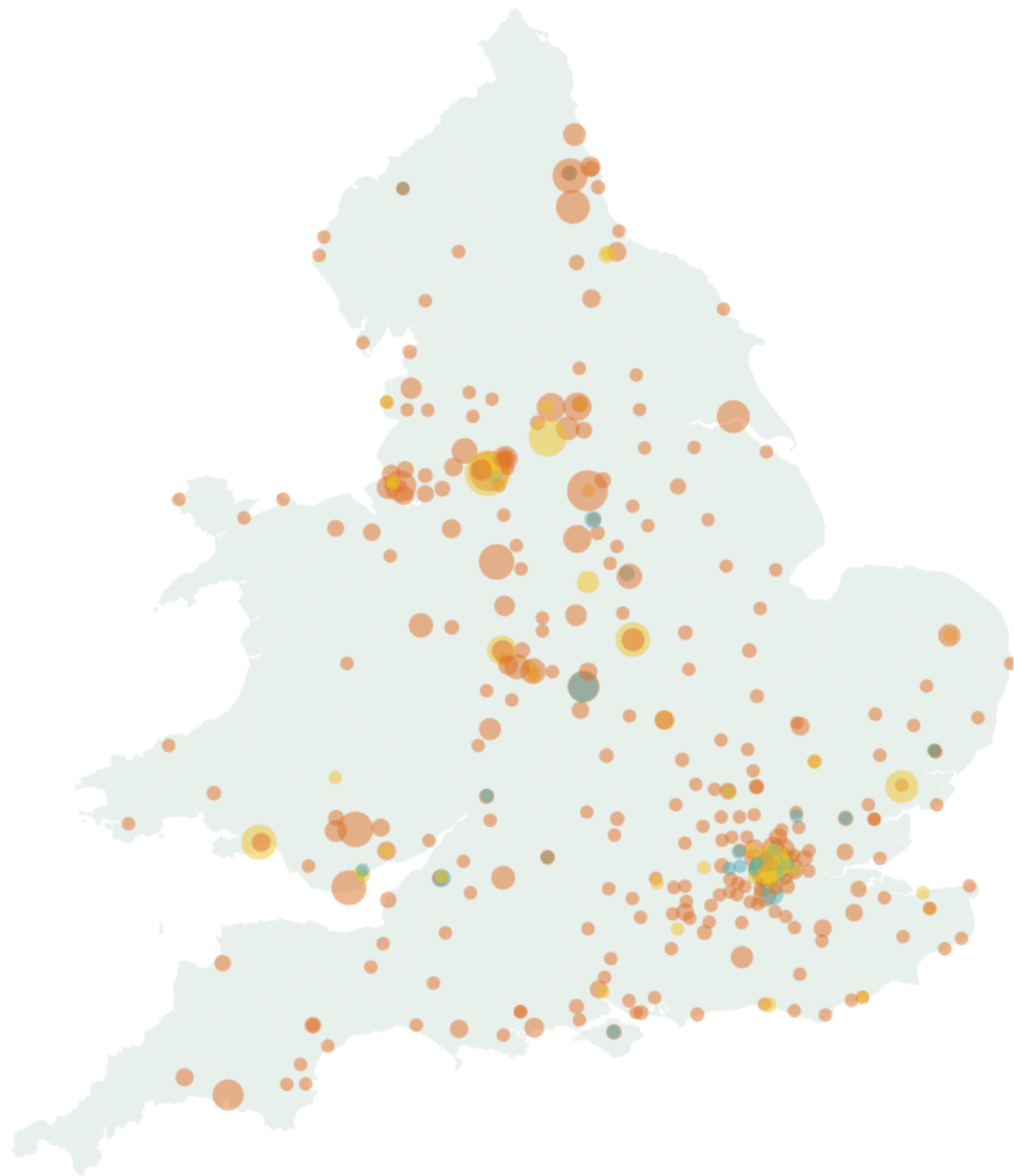
It should be noted that this reflects the income trends for those still operating in some form in January 2022, not the income for the specialist legal advice sector as a whole. Recent years have seen a number of closures of providers as funding has been squeezed. This skews the overall picture and artificially deflates income reported in 2016-17 for organisations that subsequently closed.

We will monitor this cohort of organisations going forward to consider the impact of closures on overall trends.

Location

Location of specialist legal advice providers

● Citizens Advice Bureau ● Law Centre ● Other charity



Source: [ONS Geography Open Data](#), 360Giving Analysis of Charity Commission data
Excluding charities with over £10m income

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8673001/>

Providers are spread across the country, concentrated in urban areas - although it should be noted that this is where the organisation is based and not where the delivery is happening. Many provide services across different locations. If you open the map from the link above you can click on the dots to find provider names.

Region and Country breakdown

The following table shows a regional breakdown of local Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres and their spending, alongside total population by region and country, and legal aid spending on not for profits in those areas. Providers with income over £10m are excluded. The region is based on the headquarters of the charity, and region is not available for some charities.

Region	Population 2020 (m)	Legal Aid spending on Not for profits, 2019-20		Specialist Legal Advice providers		
		£m	£ per person	Number	Spending (£m)	Spending (£) per person
East Midlands	4.9	0.9	0.2	22	16.6	3.4
Eastern	6.3	0.4	0.1	43	17.7	2.8
London	9.0	5.3	0.6	54	38.5	4.3
North East	2.7	2.5	0.9	11	14.0	5.2
North West	7.4	2.5	0.3	41	32.8	4.5
South East	9.2	1.6	0.2	63	25.0	2.7
South West	5.7	2.4	0.4	32	19.6	3.5
West Midlands	6.0	1.0	0.2	24	24.8	4.2
Yorkshire and Humberside	5.5	0.8	0.1	17	20.9	3.8
Wales	3.2	1.0	0.3	21	18.4	5.8

Regional legal aid spending is from [official government statistics](#) - table 9.2. Spending for Merseyside was allocated to the North East, and spending for "South" was allocated to the South East. [Population data is from ONS](#).

Funding

Funding sources

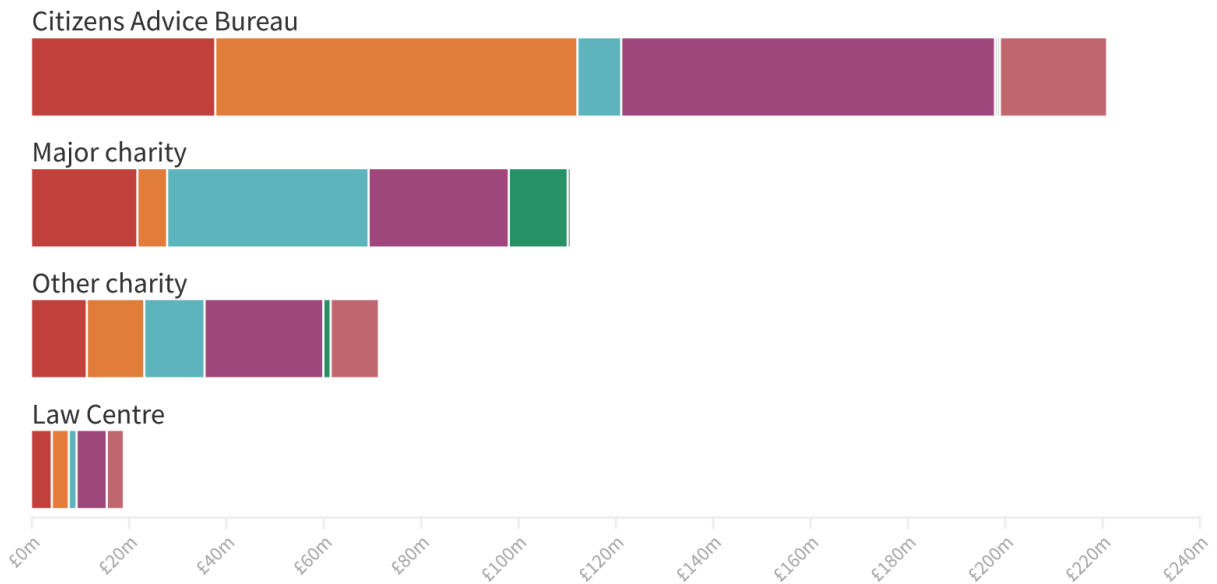
In the financial year 2019-20 (the latest for which full data is available), the sector received £421m in income. Data from financial returns to the Charity Commission shows that 18% of this funding comes from contracts with Government (including Local Government), while 23% comes from Government grants. This means that 41% of their income comes from Government, with the remaining 59% from other sources. These other sources include:

- Fees and donations paid by members of the public
- Investment income
- Grants from grantmaking foundations and the National Lottery Community Fund
- Income from the private sector - and pro-bono services that are required to be recognised as income

Specialist legal advice providers: Income sources, 2019/20

Income (£ million)

■ Contracts with government
 ■ Government grants
 ■ Donations and legacies
 ■ Charitable activities
 ■ Trading
 ■ Investment
 ■ Other income sources



Source: 360Giving analysis of Charity Commission data
 Detailed financial data only available for charities with over £500k income

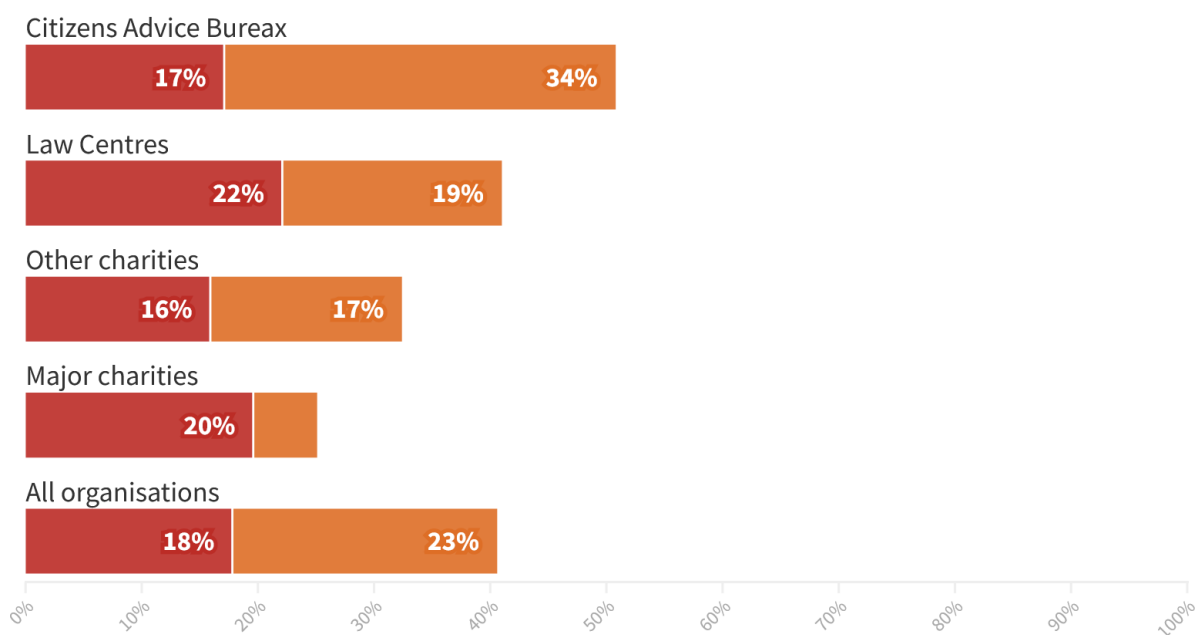
<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8573629/>

These funding sources do vary depending on the size and type of organisation funded. Citizens Advice Bureaux (excluding the national body) received 34% of their income from Government grants plus 17% from contracts with Government. The four major charities (those with over £10 million income) received 6% of their income from Government grants, plus 20% from contracts with Government.

Specialist legal advice providers: Income from Government, 2019/20

Government grants and contracts as a % of total income, by charity group

■ Contracts with Government ■ Government grants



Source: 360Giving analysis of Charity Commission data

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8573639/>

It should be noted that this may be slightly under-reported as this information is recorded as part of the Charity Commission Annual Return process but is not an official SORP category so the data is not always recorded consistently.

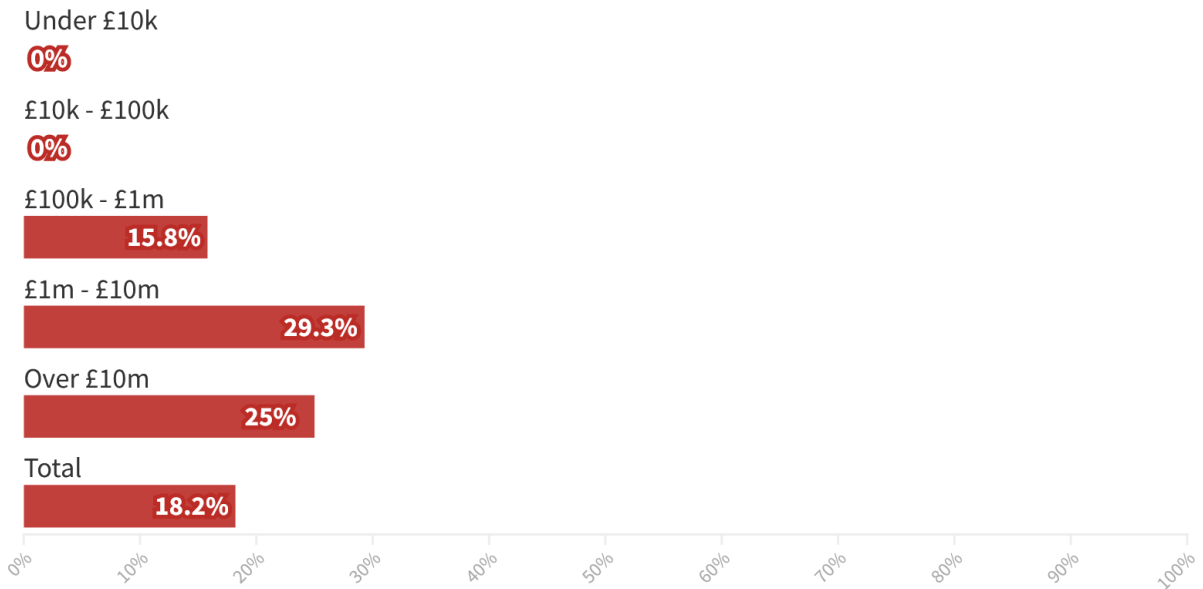
Legal Aid Funding

Using data published by the Government on legal aid payments, it is possible to see which of these providers have received Legal Aid funding. Just under 20% of specialist legal advice providers received Legal Aid funding between 2016 and 2021. The majority of law centres have received Legal Aid funding.

Specialist legal advice providers: proportion who received legal aid funding between 2016-2021

By income band

■ % of charities receiving legal aid



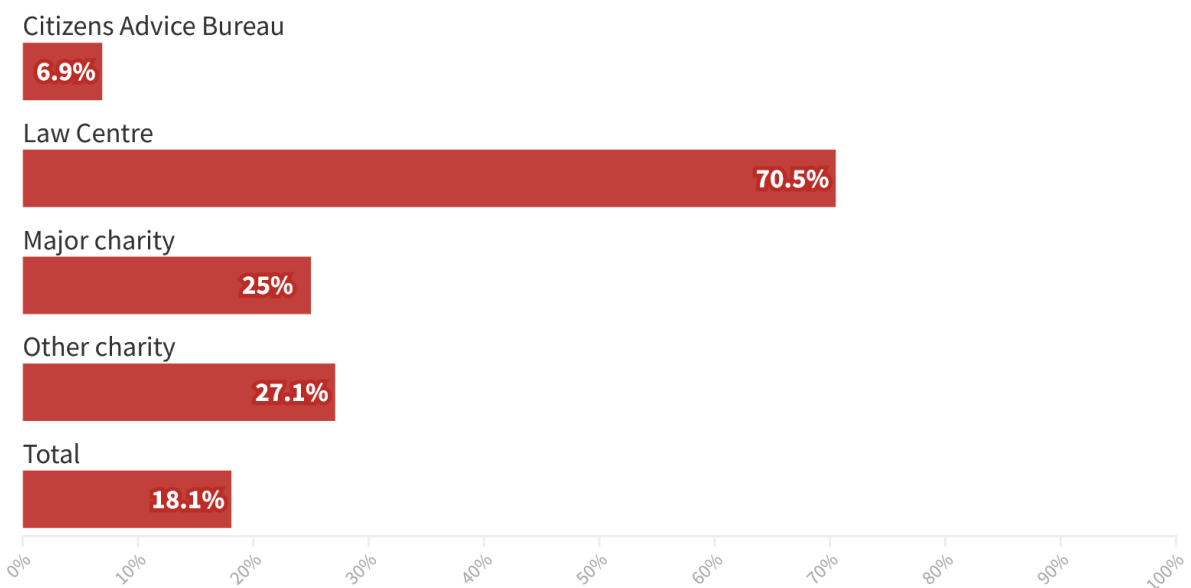
Source: 360Giving analysis of Legal Aid payments

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8699604/>

Specialist legal advice providers: proportion who received legal aid funding between 2016-2021

By provider type

■ % of charities receiving legal aid



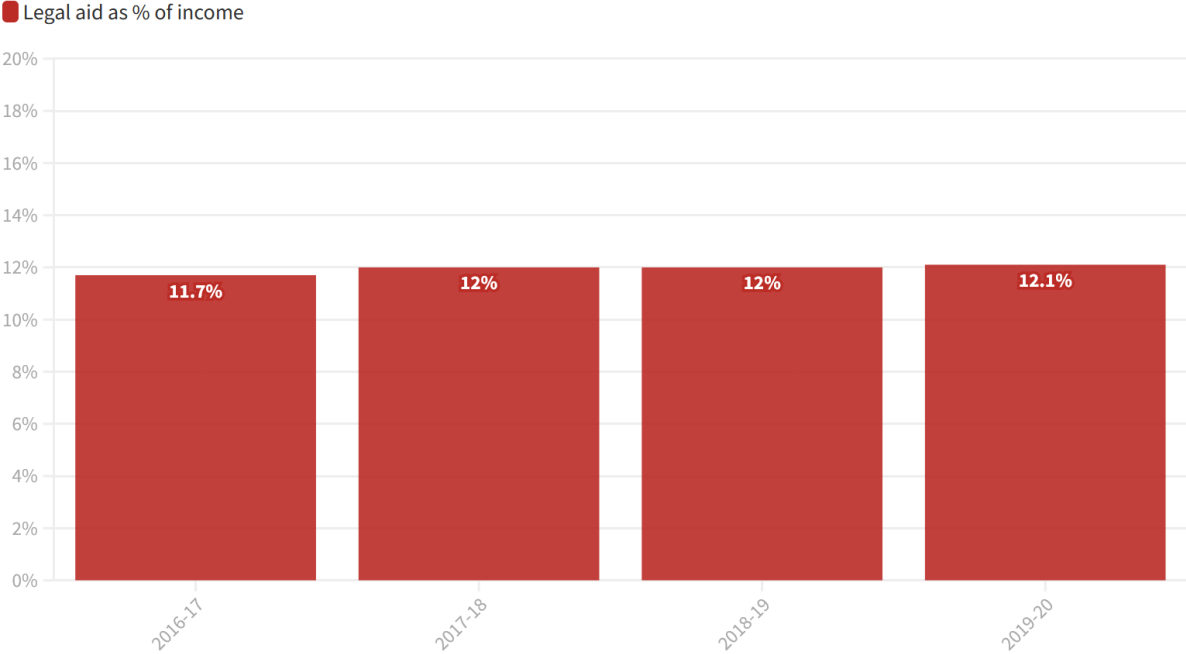
Source: 360Giving analysis of Legal Aid payments

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8699629/>

For providers that received legal aid funding, this funding represents around 12% of their total income. This proportion has remained steady since 2016.

Specialist legal advice providers: legal aid funding as a proportion of total income

2016 - 2020. For charities that received legal aid funding.



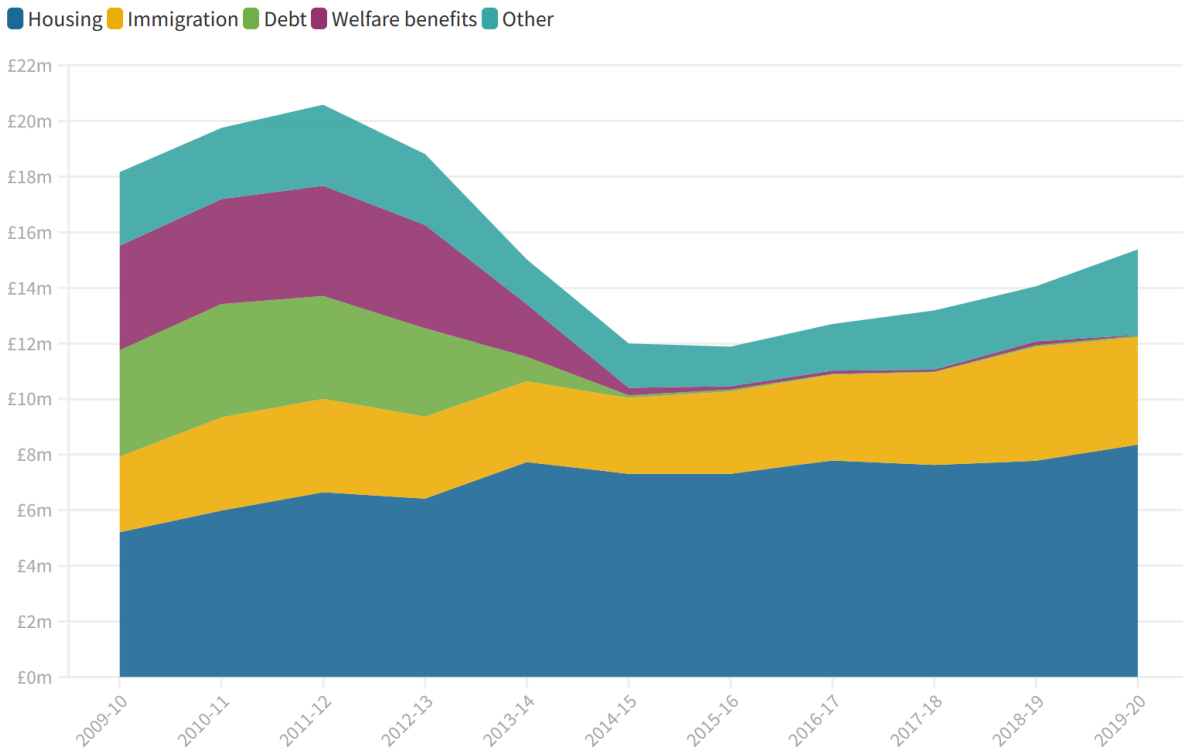
Source: 360Giving analysis of Legal Aid payments

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8699649/>

Again, this reflects the income of the organisations that we are looking at that are currently operating. It does not reflect the Legal Aid funding to the sector as a whole.

Legal Aid funding to these specialist legal advice providers has reduced since 2009-10. This appears to be primarily a result of a fall in funding for Legal Aid around debt and welfare benefits. Funding to this group of organisations peaked at just over £20m in 2011-12, falling to £15m in 2019-20.

Change in legal aid funding for specialist legal aid providers 2009-2020. Cash terms, not adjusted for inflation.



<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8672741/>

Grant funding

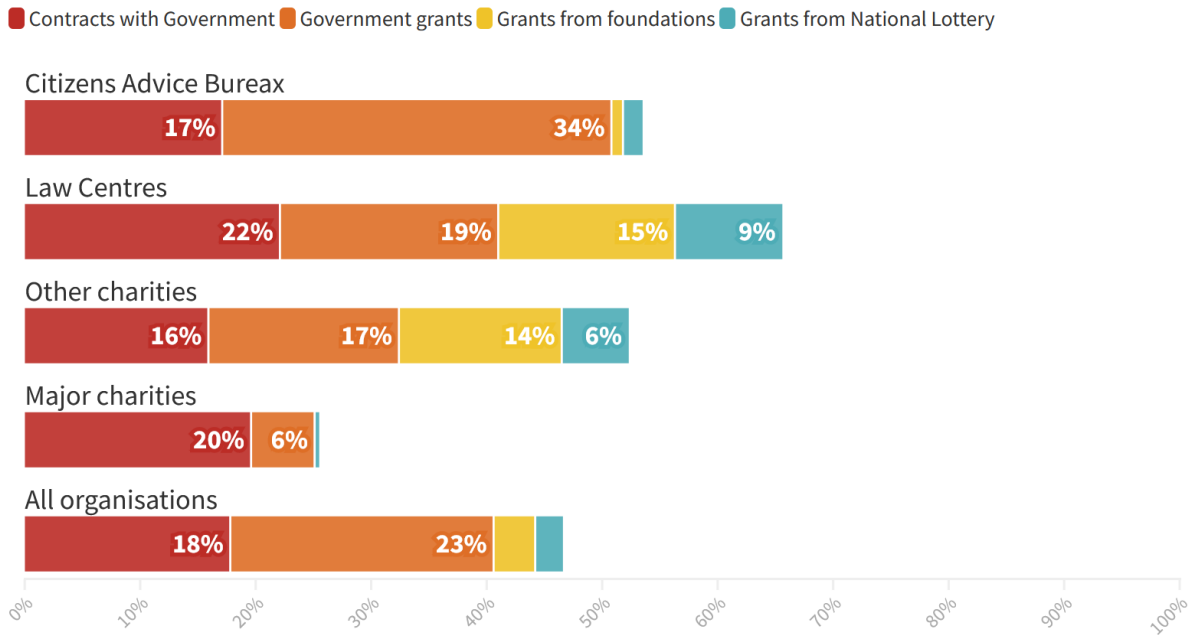
Using data shared by grantmakers to the 360Giving Data Standard, we can look at which grantmakers are funding specialist legal advice providers.

Not all funders publish 360Giving data, so these figures will underestimate grant funding. Once income from government is excluded, grants in the 360Giving dataset account for around 6% of the remaining income of specialist legal advice providers, although this rises to 24% for law centres and 20% for specialist legal advice providers with income under £10 million. The major charities in this dataset are providing a range of different services and activities and have a wider range of income sources including trading and public fundraising.

While these figures only show a partial picture of the funding received, they indicate that grant funding from the National Lottery distributors and from other foundations is an important funding source for smaller legal advice providers, including Law Centres.

Specialist legal advice providers: Income sources, 2019/20

% of total income, by charity group



Source: 360Giving analysis of Charity Commission data, 360Giving publishers • Grants from foundations and grants from National Lottery are from data shared by funders in the 360Giving format. Not all grantmakers share data in this way. Grant amounts reflect the award date and so may not all have been received in this year.

As noted in the Funding Sources above, remaining funding includes a mixture of fundraising, pro-bono support, corporate support, trading - and in the case of the chart above, grants from funders who do not yet publish their data using the 360Giving Data Standard.

Biggest funders

The twenty largest funders of specialist legal advice providers, by amount of grants, is shown below. This is based on data from funders who publish using the 360Giving Data Standard.

The figures show grants awarded since April 2019, up to data published in April 2022 (although most data will be from between 2019 and 2021). This does mean that these figures include grants made as part of Covid relief and recovery grants, so may differ from previous patterns of grantmaking.

The table shows whether funders are members of Community Justice Fund (CJF) or Justice Together (JT).

		Grant amount (£m) 2019-2022	Number of grants made
The National Lottery Community Fund	CJF	18.3	170
Access to Justice Foundation	CJF	12.4	201
Trust for London	JT	8.0	109
The Henry Smith Charity		6.8	46
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	CJF	6.1	48
City Bridge Trust	JT	5.5	81
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport		3.0	62
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	CJF, JT	3.0	46
Comic Relief	JT	2.9	15
A B Charitable Trust	CJF, JT	2.9	125
Home Office		1.7	22
The Tudor Trust	JT	1.6	44
National Emergencies Trust		1.5	1
The Baring Foundation	CJF, JT	1.1	29
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	JT	1.1	9
John Ellerman Foundation	CJF	1.1	8
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales		0.9	26
BBC Children in Need		0.7	11
Indigo Trust	CJF	0.6	8
Unbound Philanthropy	JT	0.6	5
<i>19 Community Foundations</i>		<i>0.8</i>	<i>83</i>

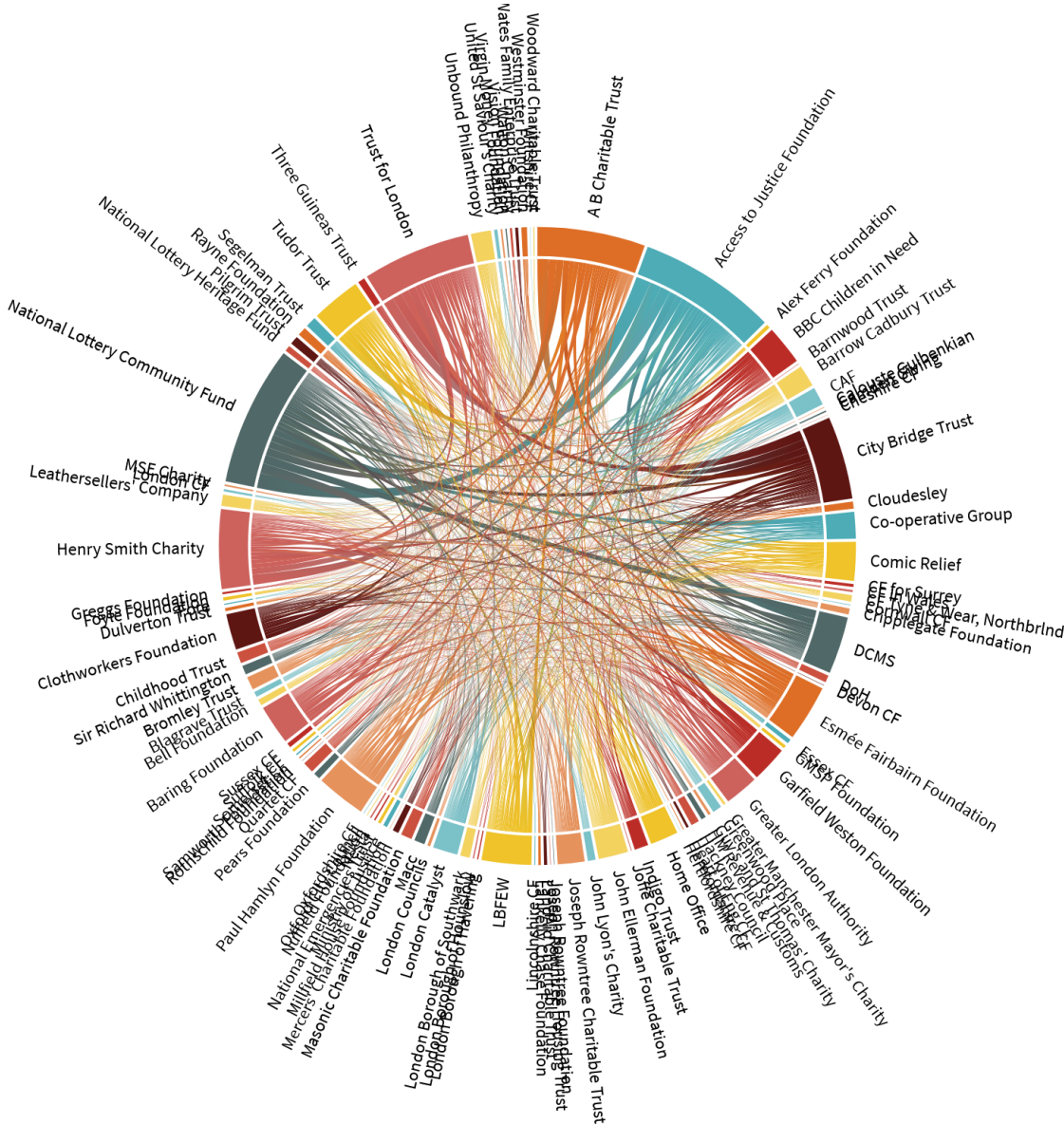
Data from 19 Community Foundations throughout the UK shows that these Community Foundations made 83 grants to specialist legal advice providers, totalling £765,000.

These 20 funders plus 19 Community Foundations are responsible for 95% of the amount of known grant funding received by legal advice charities and 83% of the number of grants. A quarter of funding comes from the National Lottery Community Fund, with 15% from the Access to Justice Foundation.

Note that some of this funding is to support the work of the organisations identified in the cohort as specialist legal advice providers, but not all the funding is for specialist legal advice. Henry Smith Charity, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and BBC Children in Need are not part of the collaborations but are funding some of the same organisations.

Who funds with who

The visualisation below shows the number of grantees that different funders have in common with each other - the thicker the chord, the more grantees in common.



<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/8510755/>

Click on the link above to enlarge and see individual funders

Key missing funders from this profile who do not share their data to the 360Giving Data Standard include:

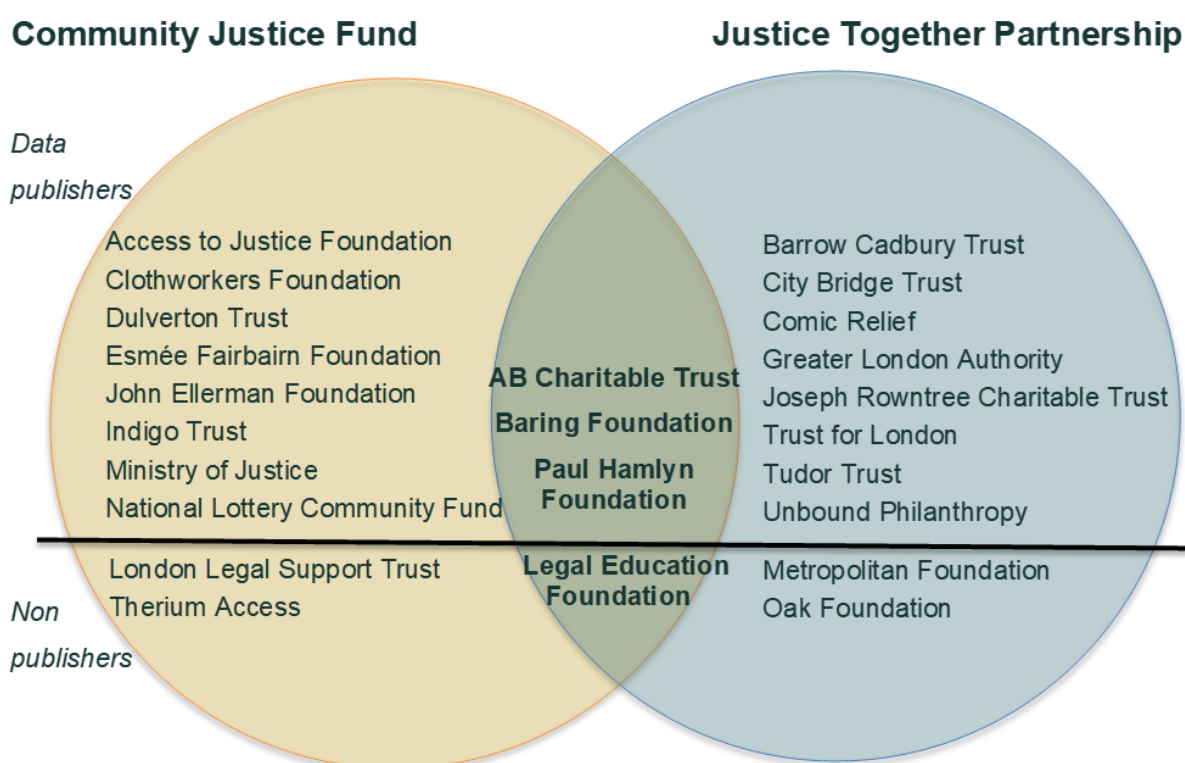
- Legal Education Foundation/ Justice Collaborations
- Legal Support Trusts, particularly the London Legal Support Trust
- Therium Access
- Oak Foundation

- Civil Liberties Trust
- A handful of Community Foundations that are working towards publishing their data
- The majority of Local Authorities that are yet to publish their data

Collaborations

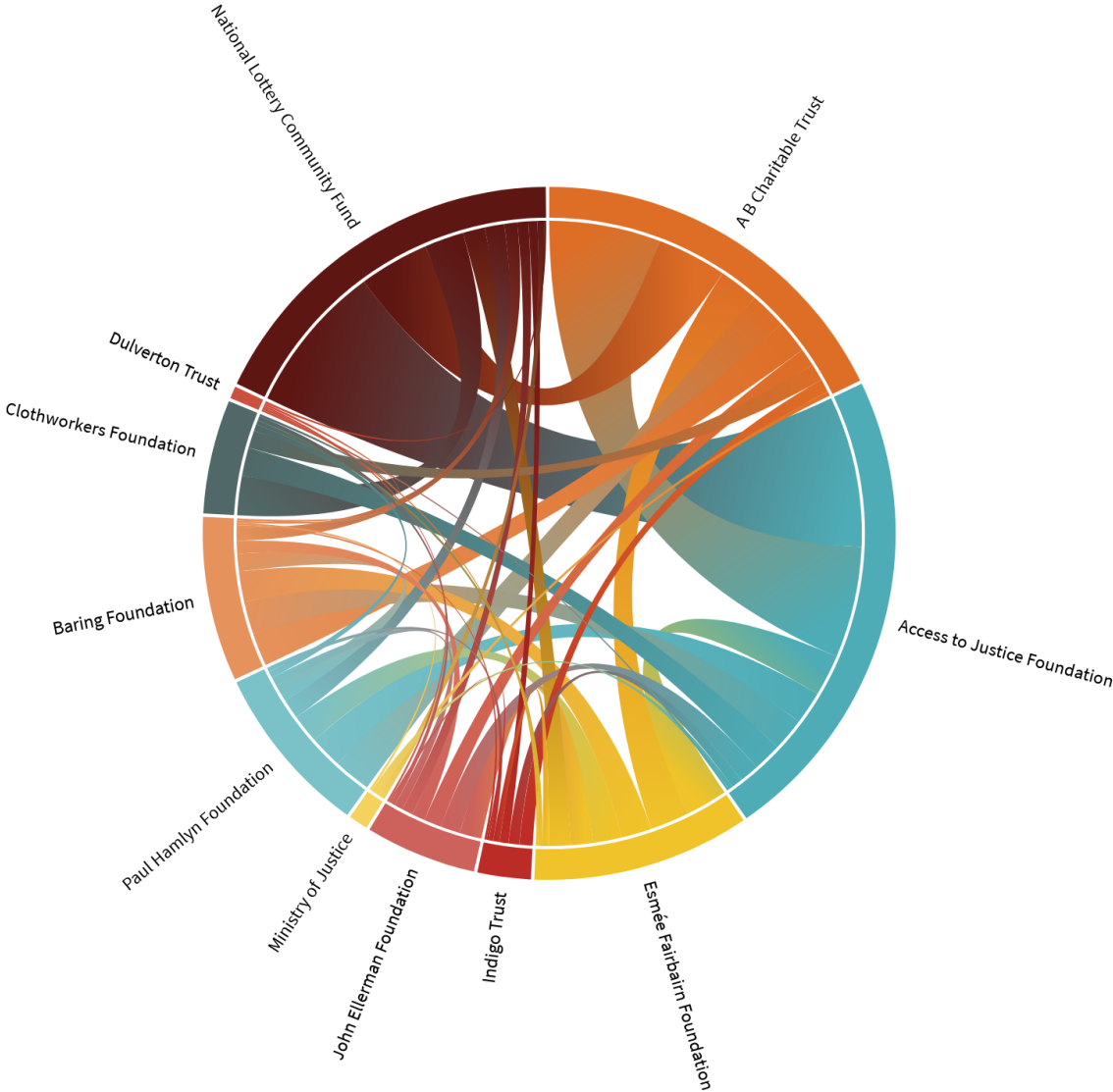
Community Justice Fund and the Justice Together Partnership

Many of the main funders in the “who funds with who” chart above that are not in the Community Justice Fund are in the Justice Together Partnership. While there is some overlap in key funders, there are also complementary approaches of the two collaborations.



Community Justice Fund - who funds with who

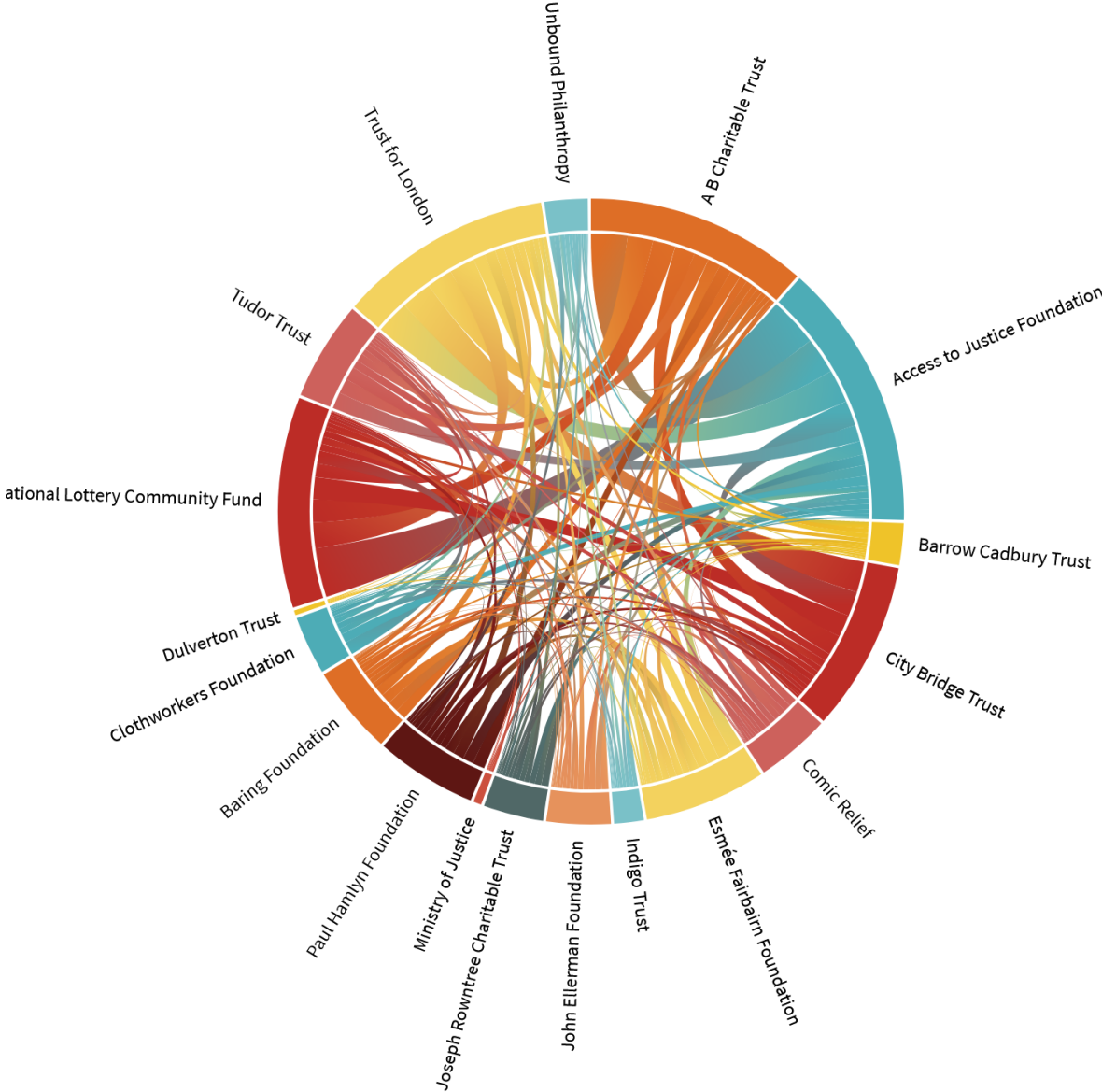
This version of the “who funds with who” chord diagram is based on those recipients who have received funding from funders who are part of the Community Justice Fund, and shows other funders who have also funded those recipients.



<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/9330625/>

Community Justice Fund and Justice Together - who funds with who

This “who funds with who” chord diagram shows those recipients who have received funding from funders who are part of the Community Justice Fund or Justice Together, and shows the number of recipients in common between the organisations, to view these initiatives together.



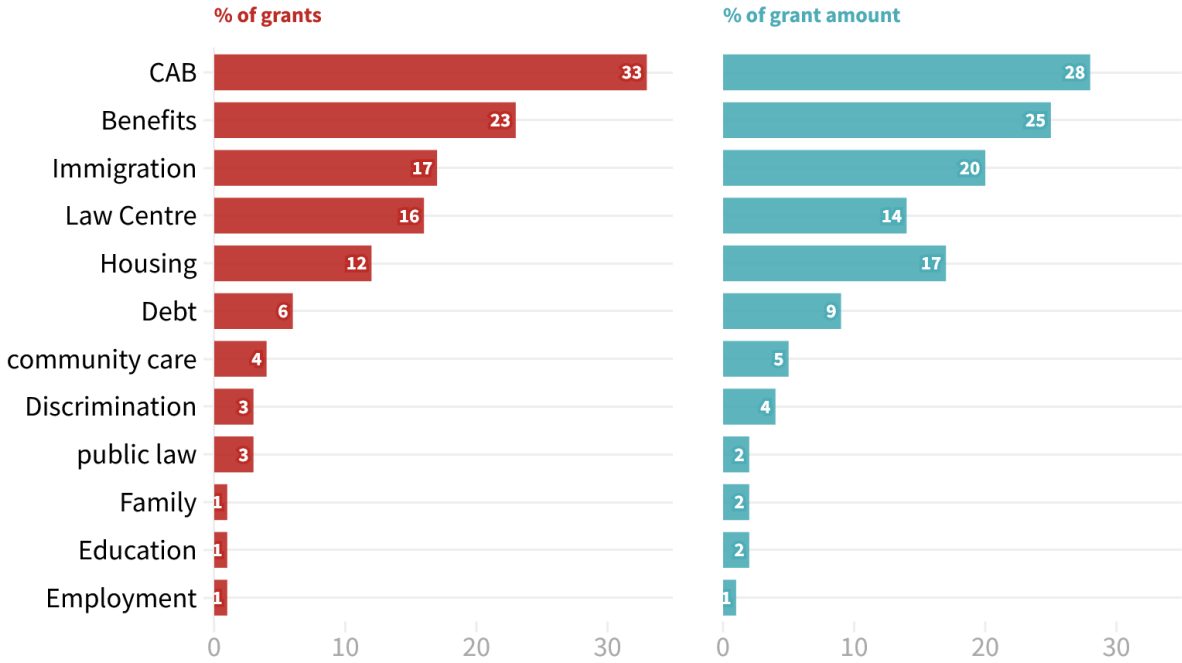
<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/9359591/>

Funding themes

A set of thematic tags were applied to the grants based on a series of keywords. For example, if a grant mentioned “immigration”, “migrant” or “asylum” it was given the “Immigration” tag. As well as these thematic tags, special tags were applied to grants received by Citizens Advice Bureaux or Law Centres. A grant could have more than one tag applied.

Out of 2,150 grants to specialist legal advice providers dating back to 2016, tags were applied to 78% of grants. 33% of grants were to local Citizens Advice Bureaux, representing 28% of grant amounts. Grants were most likely to relate to benefits advice (23% of grants), immigration (17%) and housing issues (12%).

Theme of grants to specialist legal advice providers
% of grants and **% of grant amount**, 2016-2022



Source: 360Giving publishers • Themes assigned through keyword searching of grant description. Some grants are included in more than one theme.

Conclusions

This report provides some useful insights into the specialist legal advice providers and the operating context for the funder collaborations that support them.

This summary and the associated spreadsheet created provide a base for understanding the specialist legal advice providers and their income using existing open data sources. However, it doesn't provide all the answers. While we have all the central government grants data, we do not have all the central government contracts data - although a significant proportion of this will be in the form of Legal Aid funding which is available. We also have limited data from Local Authorities as only a small percentage publish their data.

It is recommended that this cohort of identified organisations is tracked and the analysis repeated in future years to create a baseline of what is happening to the sector. When undertaking this research it was identified that a disproportionate number of organisations had closed in recent years, and understanding the impact of closures on the sector as a whole, and on local communities, is important.