

Legal & Professional

Wirral pro bono project is pushing its services

ProHelp Wirral offers free advice to not for profit organisations

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A PROJECT which sees professionals in Wirral offer free advice to charities and community groups has already provided assistance worth £12,500.

And ProHelp Wirral is now appealing for more not-for-profit organisations who may need advice to get in touch.

It has developed a network of professional firms who are prepared to offer their services *pro bono* to community organisations.

Advice is available from solicitors, accountants, architects, PR and marketing consultants and management consultants.

Wirral firms participating in the project include accountancy firm McEwan Wallace, architects Ainsley Gomon, Percy Hughes and Roberts solicitors and quantity surveyors & project management specialists, Redfean Morrison Thomas.

ProHelp Wirral was created to help smaller, local, not-for-profit organisations gain valuable advice that they would otherwise be unable to afford.

This advice enables charities to grow, and become more established organisations, allowing them to support the wider community.

Zel Rodgers, project administrator, said: "Since its inception, Wirral Pro-Help has given Wirral charities and community groups a real boost.

"Organisations such as Charlotte's Brightside Trust, Wallasey YMCA,



■ Ian Jones, left, and Zel Rodgers, right, of ProHelp Wirral with Karen Crompton of Wirral Well

New Brighton Community Association and NYAS have all benefited from our service. We would urge other Wirral charities to come and talk to us."

Angela Churchill from Charlotte's Brightside CLC added: "Our organisation received free legal advice from a local solicitor which enabled Charlotte's Brightside to purchase a new building.

"The support we have received has

been immeasurable and we would not be here today, running so successfully, without it".

Members have provided a range of *pro bono* services, agreed in advance of a project, including advice on leases and employment contracts, architectural advice on properties, help with accountancy and governance and marketing support.

Ms Rodgers added: "Our members are helping our charities and com-

munity groups in many innovative ways and we would like to expand the portfolio of advice we provide.

"Even a small amount of time will be of benefit. If you are a Wirral based business - we would be delighted to talk to you about how you could join our programme and support the Wirral community."

For further information on the programme, email Zel Rodgers at zel.roddgers@vcawirral.org.uk