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Personal Support Unit announces rebrand to ‘Support Through Court’

The Personal Support Unit, a charity dedicated to providing free, independent assistance to individuals facing court alone, will in future be known as *Support Through Court*, following an extensive rebrand.

The launch of the new name, coinciding with the charity’s 18th birthday, is designed to convey more effectively the service and support the charity offers, which is increasingly vital in a climate where few litigants qualify for legal aid.

Support Through Court supports litigants in person by helping them sort through paperwork and organise case notes, giving them the confidence to represent themselves in court.

From April 2018 through to March 2019, *Support Through Court* helped individuals on over 75,000 occasions, with over 60% of cases being family law-related. The charity also supports individuals facing immigration, housing, employment and bankruptcy court hearings.

The organisation relies on the work of dedicated volunteers across the country and financial support from corporate and individual donors. In July this year, the Rt Honorable Baroness Hale of Richmond, President of the Supreme Court and Patron of the PSU, led a BBC Radio 4 fundraising appeal to support its work. The charity is also looking to grow its corporate partner base from 22 to 30 firms to help it meet the increasing demand for its services.

Peter Crisp, Chair of the Board of Trustees of *Support Through Court*, said: “Our rebrand has been a valuable and energising exercise helping us to reconnect with all our important stakeholders, from supporters and volunteers to our clients, the litigants we assist. We do outstanding work and play a vital role in the justice system but have been rather hiding our light under a bushel. We believe our new name, logo and imagery articulate much more effectively the essence of what we do and will give us better reach to support those most in need within what is for many an alienating legal landscape. Our rebrand truly marks our coming of age and gives us a new platform for future growth, demonstrating our responsibility within the court system.”

The PSU is grateful for the assistance of branding agency Toucarilive in delivering this project and we will be rolling out our new name and imagery from today at all of its 23 local offices.

To celebrate the charity's 18th Birthday and the rebrand, *Support Through Court* is hosting an event tonight at the Royal Courts of Justice. Charity supporters will attend, as well as the charity’s Chair, Peter Crisp, volunteers, judges and solicitors.

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Note to Editors

About *Support Through Court*

Support Through Court is an award-winning organisation with around 755 dedicated volunteers. It operates from 23 courts in 19 different cities across England and Wales.

It was founded in 2001 by Lady Copisarow OBE, as The Personal Support Unit, with the aim of reducing the disadvantage of people facing the civil and family justice system without a lawyer, enabling them to access justice.

The charity has traditionally relied on funding from the Government, Trusts, corporate sponsors and donations from friends and individuals. In 2018/19, its annual revenue was £1,103,257.

Trustees: Peter Crisp, Kirit Naik, Elizabeth Davies, Caroline Field, Peter Hancock CBE, Angela Camber, Elisabeth Long, Greville Waterman, David Wilkin, Samantha Gargaro, Stephen Adler and Tim Nash.

Patrons include: Martin Lewis OBE, The Rt Hon The Baroness Hale of Richmond (President of the Supreme Court), The Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton (Master of the Rolls), The Rt Hon The Lady Butler-Sloss, The Rt Hon The Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony, The Rt Hon Lord Dyson, The Rt Hon The Lord Neuberger, The Rt Hon The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, The Rt Hon The Lord Thomas, The Rt Hon The Lord Woolf, The Rt Hon The Lord Judge.

For more information on *Support Through Court*, please see: www.supportthroughcourt.org

For further comment, please contact:

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