**Present:** Abi Jones ( Chair Simmons and Simmons), Miriam Bishop ( Vice Chair Bevan Brittan), Chloe O’Brien ( Simmons and Simmons), Dan Preddy (DAC Beachcroft), Amanda Crutchley ( Uni of Law), Rachel Wood ( UWE), John Peake ( Uni of Bristol), Sarah Phillimore ( St Johns Chambers), Conor O’ Carroll- Lolait ( Irwin Mitchell), Eleri ( Irwin Mitchell), David Shakesby ( Osborne Clarke), Michael Hayes ( Burgess Salmon), Mark Calverley ( Brittan Bevan), Eleanor Doherty (CMS), Dave Miller (Bristol Law Centre), Clare Johnson (Lawworks), Jane Emanuel ( Bristol Law Centre).

**Apologies:** Paul Bryson (PSU), Lucy Burrows (BPP), Ali Cloak (RWK), Becky Randall (RWK), Johnathan Bower (WBD), Deborah Sheldon (TLT), Marcin Patrzala (CMS), Sue Evans (CAB).

1. **Presentation**

Clare Johnson from Lawworks undertook a presentation about Lawworks, what they can offer and how they provide support, the different programmes they support and their wider engagement with other national pro- bono agencies.

Attached to these minutes is the presentations and further information about Lawworks. If anyone wishes to contact Clare, her email is clare.johnson@lawworks.org.uk.

1. **Mapping**

Abi Jones had sent a mapping template to all members. Half of members have responded, which was felt to be a positive first step and clearly, she **would welcome more responses**. What it demonstrated was how many different initiatives were being undertaken and how these were supporting many individuals and charitable organisations in Bristol.

It was agreed that we should create some sort of page link both to the Law Centres and Law Societies website which demonstrates the effort by firms. It was felt, at this stage, that creating a separate pro- bono website was not appropriate but having dedicated pages for Pro- Bono Bristol that could be linked to firms inter/intranets would be an equally effective solution.

There were concerns about releasing client information (as some responses had detailed individual clients/organisations) and that for now information should be anonymised – but checks will be made with each respondent to ensure they are content with this approach.

It was noted that this was a start of a process that in time could be developed to ensure that the more deprived areas of Bristol were able to take equal advantage of pro- bono work.

1. **Pro- Bono Week**

Pro- Bono week is the 4th – 8th of November. Justice week, which last year happened on the following week, will now take place next May (2020).

The national objective of the week is to encourage more volunteering, underpinned by the following themes:

* **Changing lives through pro bono –**Highlighting how legal volunteering makes a difference to the public and can even lead to changes in the law
* **Celebrating pro bono –**Showcasing pro bono work and the achievements of volunteer lawyers
* **Why pro bono is good for you –**Demonstrating the career value of pro bono through events which explore the benefits of pro bono in terms of impact on career development
* **New developments in pro bono –**Specific areas of development and best practice in pro bono schemes

All information and calendar of events is on the pro- bono website : <http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/about-pro-bono-week/>

In respect of activities in Bristol several firms are putting on internal recognition events to encourage a greater spread of support.

In addition, Bristol Law Centre is putting on an event ‘Unlocking Justice’ demonstrating the impact of the work of the Law Centre, including the contribution of pro- bono support. This is being hosted by Simmons and Simmons on the evening of the 6th of November – all members of Pro- Bono Bristol have been invited. This is being followed by the national Law Centres Network conference which is being held in Bristol (7 and 8th Nov) hosted by Burgess Salmon with further support from a range of Bristol firms.

It was agreed that the time scale was too short to host a separate event, but rather we should organise a number of press releases to ‘spotlight’ the contribution of firms and chambers and how that supports people and organisations in Bristol, why this is needed and how it is being good for business. This would be aimed at the general press: Bristol post, Bristol 24/7, local radio as well as the more business orientated publications – Business Insider – Dan has contact there which he will forward, Simmons and Simmons offered use of their comms team to support this.

In addition, it was agreed that all firms when putting any information out on Twitter about their contribution should be encouraged to use **#Pro-Bono Bristol** as a way to identify local contributions.

1. **AOB**

Jane asked whether at the next meeting, Law For Life could attend – this is a national organisation that provides a range of resources to the general public to support them in securing legal remedy for their situation. This was agreed.

1. **Date of Next Meeting :** Tuesday 14th January 2020, 5.30pm Bevan Brittan