

**Anthony
Collins**

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Our Customers score

**Powered
by purpose**

— a journey to a thriving society



Certified
B
Corporation

Customers

Our clients are a true reflection of us as a social purpose law firm.

With over 50% of our income deriving from charitable organisations, we work in the sectors we know will have the most impact on lives, communities and society.

We want to go beyond supporting our clients with the nuts and bolts of their work and the day to day legal issues they face. Our ambition is to become a key adviser, informing national social policy and being indispensable to them, whether we are delivering services to them as private individuals or where organisations are delivering services across the UK.

What we've achieved over the last 12 months

As a uniquely social-purpose law firm, we don't see social value as an add-on. Instead, we seek to drive it through all our work with clients. Our long-standing pledge to transform society sets us apart from other firms, with 94% of our work directly improving lives, communities and society in the past year.

Over the last 12 months, we have:

- undertaken fundraising activities for our charity partners — the firm raised over £4,000 during the Child Brain Injury Trust's Glowweek;
- offered reduced rates for charity clients;
- given our clients access to free helplines, toolkits and precedents;
- attended client community days and activities — including employment and pensions team volunteered at the Methodist Homes MHA' Abbey Park in Coventry and spent the day gardening, crafting with the residents, and sharing songs and laughter; and
- given our clients access to a series of free podcasts, ebriefings, blogs, training and webinars, supporting our clients through the changing legal landscape.

Supporting innovation

Our aim is to also work smarter and deliver outstanding value to clients. Our dedicated innovation team, ACcelerate, has developed a number of digital solutions for our clients to assist them in the work they do which has either reduced their costs, improved their visibility and awareness of legal areas in their sector or created efficiencies in the delivery of their work. Exciting projects are set for 2025, including leveraging AI, to further assist people get the help they need.



Rankeshwar Batta, head of personal injury and clinical negligence

12%

of our staff are trustees of national or regional charities and community associations



Pro-bono legal support

We hold a position as a strategic partner with sector bodies including NCF, Care England and the Homecare Association and regularly engage and participate in Practice Forums operated by the NCF and several groups organised by Care England. Over the last year, our team has provided 90 hours of pro-bono support, including practical advice and tools, to over 2,600 homecare providers.

Our regulatory team has been providing pro-bono support for sector bodies Homecare Association, National Care Forum and Care England in relation to their engagement with the COVID-19 public inquiry and we are one of the few top 200 law firms that offer publicly funded legal aid services to private individuals including clinical negligence and personal injury.

Expanding our reach to those who need it most

With a pre-eminent reputation for childcare law spanning Birmingham and the West Midlands, we opened a new Wolverhampton office in September 2024. From a strategic perspective, the new office hub has not just expanded the reach of our specialist childcare services to people in the Black Country, Shropshire and Telford, but increased the financial accessibility of this type of legal support when other law firms are offering less legal aid.

What we're planning next

- We're designing a client insights programme that will put the client voice at the centre of how we approach service delivery, design products, and communicate with them.
- To build on our legal aid framework following the launch of our Wolverhampton office and the award of an additional family legal services contract by the Legal Aid Agency.

Improving the health and safety of white-collar boxing

White-collar boxing — being a contact sport which carries serious risks — desperately needs regulation, as well as the implementation of sufficient health and safety measures. With a people-first approach to improving lives and communities, our team fight for justice for our clients whilst also campaigning to improve Health and Safety standards for all.

Work that matters

We represented the family of Dominic Chapman, a young man who died after suffering a blow to the head during a white-collar boxing match. White-collar boxing is unregulated, unlike amateur and professional boxing, meaning the safety of participants hangs on the decisions made by companies hosting events. To avoid another tragedy like this, Anthony Collins has stepped in to raise awareness of safety failures and campaign for change in the sport.

The approach:

- We represented the family of Dominic Chapman at the inquest into his death
- The inquest uncovered evidence of significant health and safety negligence on the day of his fight. For example:
 - Participants' weights were incorrectly recorded
 - Boxers were unfairly matched by experience and fitness
 - Boxers were insufficiently trained
 - Medical equipment was incomplete, and medication was missing
 - Some of the medical crew did not have experience in boxing events

Handling such a tragedy requires sensitivity, focus and the continual reminder that improvements must be made to safeguard our young communities. Our work generated:

- achieving a positive outcome for Dominic's family;
- the coroner issuing Preventing Future Deaths reports;
- one of the reports was issued to the Secretary of State at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport directing that there should be a review of white collar boxing;
- the coroner also issued a Preventing Future Deaths report to Ultra Events — the hosting entity of white-collar boxing events, including the one Dominic participated in; and
- the Preventing Future Deaths reports could significantly benefit the safety of future participants across the country.

What's next?

Our principal goal is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone participating in white-collar boxing events and, following the coroner's reports, we are optimistic for the improved safety of participants going forward.

We feel proud to have contributed to this positive step towards making white-collar boxing safer for everyone while recognising the tragic circumstances Dominic's family have faced.

Paving the way for a greener future with Newcastle City Council

As well as focusing on our own environmental journey, we support many of our clients on their road to being more sustainable too.

Following £27.5m in government funding to decarbonise public buildings in Newcastle city being granted, a host of works across 32 major sites in the city commenced.

With a focus on decarbonising the public estate, including implementing decarbonisation measures in a number of areas including lighting, heating, energy efficiency and generation and more, our work with Newcastle City Council is innovative, groundbreaking and focused entirely on the green agenda.

Work that matters

Having worked with the Council for a number of years, their latest programme of works has led to the removal of 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and will continue to do so each and every year moving forward.

To achieve this, we've supported by:

- advising on Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) phases 1, 2, 3a, b and c, working with the Council to provide compliant, time and cost-effective routes to delivery;
- advising on the full scope of matters including:
 - the impact of changes introduced under the Energy Act 2023
 - property portfolio improvements, including listed buildings and those with business tenants
 - extensions to existing district heat network
 - subsidy control and compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022
 - procurement routes to ensure effective delivery, including through existing partnerships
 - working within a multi-layered joint venture that includes navigating relationships with a host of public and private sector partners.

The success of our partnership approach and working relationship with the Council has depended on our pragmatism, practicality and rapport with everyone involved.

Where next?

This programme of works is part of the city's Net Zero 2030 action plan. The measures the Council is taking are a shining example of the impact robust sustainability measures can have on a city when there is an ambition to achieve. We'll be working on this well into the future and we're excited by how far we can take it.

Navigating new landscapes

It goes without saying that the pandemic was uncharted territory, and its handling has been under deep scrutiny. In 2022 a public inquiry into COVID-19 commenced to reflect on the pandemic, consider its management and pave the way for better handling in the event of it, or similar happening again.

For a sector left scarred and marred by the treatment of the pandemic, the inquiry has provided health and social care providers with an opportunity to shine a light on the lessons learned and set the charge for change that will support them to succeed in future.

As part of the inquiry, our regulatory team supported sector bodies Homecare Association, National Care Forum and Care England by providing pro bono work equating to around 75 days. This included helping them:

- achieve core participant status for module 2 (examining political and administrative decision-making);
- provide high-level guidance on their examination of the evidence;
- preparation of questions they could propose to be put by the inquiry team; and
- drafting of opening and closing submissions.

A focus on social care

This journey of learning provided by the inquiry is vital for the sector, with module 6 of the public inquiry providing the platform to continue this. Key to the sector, module 6 looks at the impact of the pandemic on the care sector and how it responded. We are working with the sector bodies preparing them for their engagement on this.

A significant part of our work so far has involved improving the understanding of the social care sector, convincing the inquiry to broaden its scope to include not only residential care and domiciliary care but also those in supported living, and in turn ensuring a greater voice is given to the impact of the pandemic upon people living with a learning disability.

Changing the narrative

Change is needed. A better understanding of the sector and the different services it provides will help inform regulation and deliver the best decision-making so that a thriving social care system can be supported in parallel with its healthcare counterpart.



Cultivating a generation of garden communities

We've been dedicated to creating sustainable, fulfilling communities for over three decades.

For nearly 15 years, this work has focused on establishing and supporting community-based stewardship organisations to own and manage neighbourhood assets as part of large-scale housing developments.

Leicester's Broadnook Garden Village is a prime example — a beacon for the Town and Country Planning Association's principles on the incredible potential of garden communities. Our role includes forming stewardship mechanisms for these communities that will shape their longevity and the value they bring for generations.

Place-making for social cohesion

Our work for Broadnook Garden Village has been informed by many years of building successful, community-led organisations based on a collaborative, multi-stakeholder model.

Working for lead developers, Cora Homes and Davidsons, our aim was to help them establish a stewardship vehicle that is properly equipped to take care of its community, where ownership and accountability gradually shifts from the developer to representatives of the community.

Putting this experience into practice, our team got to work:

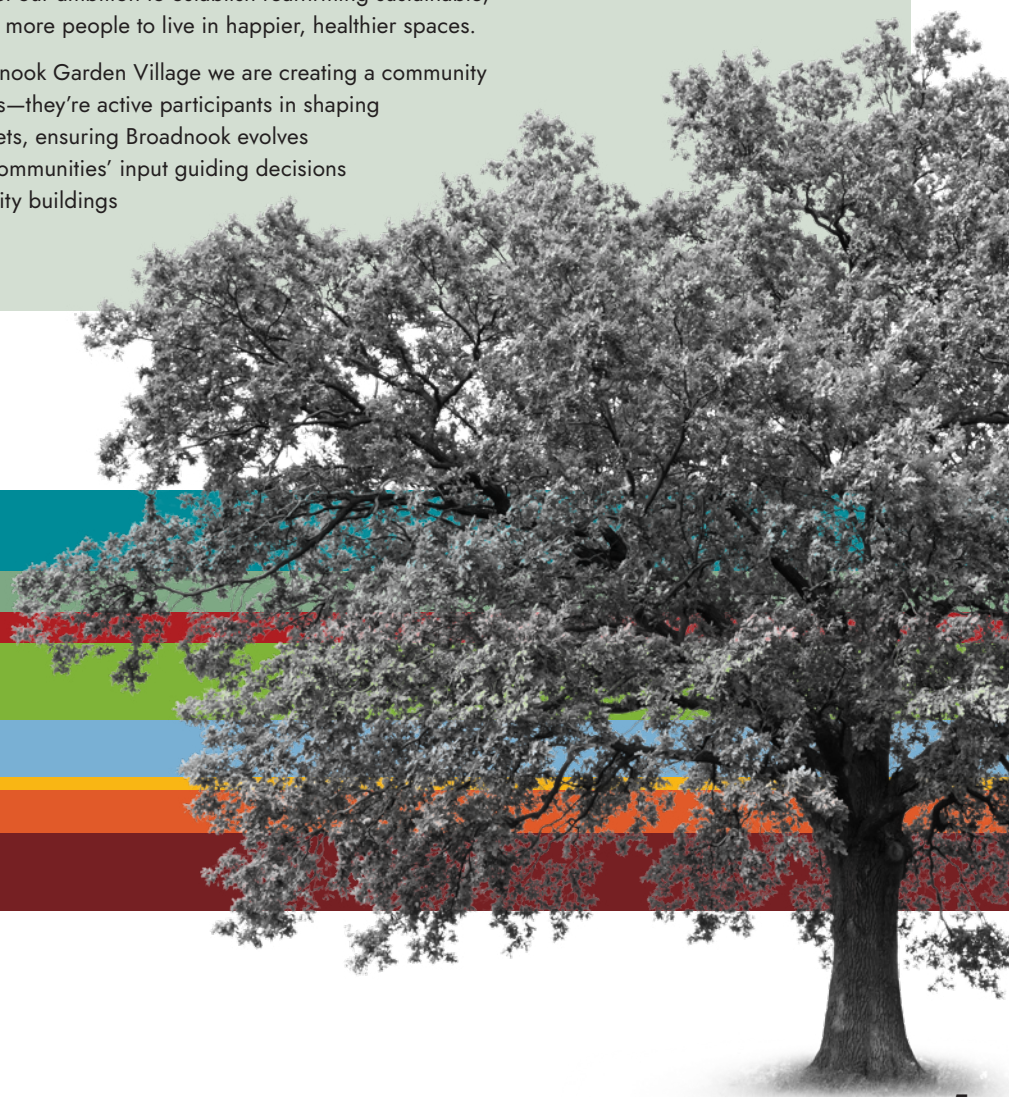
- constructing the governance around the community's stewardship;
- drafting the constitution required for the Board makeup; and
- preparing and negotiating documents with the developers securing funding for stewardship, and approval by the local authority.

These efforts unite for a sole purpose: to cultivate a well-maintained, connected community that is tended to by its people for many years to come.

Where next?

Broadnook is the tip of the iceberg as we propel our ambition to establish reaffirming sustainable, long-term communities across the UK, enabling more people to live in happier, healthier spaces.

Bert Broadhead at Cora Homes said: "At Broadnook Garden Village we are creating a community where residents are more than just homeowners—they're active participants in shaping the village. The Trust will manage all public assets, ensuring Broadnook evolves as a sustainable, vibrant place to live with the communities' input guiding decisions on how green spaces, play areas, and community buildings are maintained and developed."



Acting for vulnerable individuals involved in forced marriages

It's been a decade since forced marriages were criminalised and we have been working with both affected individuals and local authorities to protect vulnerable young people identified as being at risk of being forced into a marriage when either did not consent or were unable to consent, to marriage due to not having the capacity to do so.

Driven to protect those who need our help, our family team have a strong reputation for fighting for individuals who lack the mental capacity to consent to marriage.

Work that matters

The Forced Marriages Unit (FMU), the Government's main delivery arm for dealing with forced marriage casework and policy, gave advice and support on 280 forced marriages and/or female genital mutilation (FGM) cases in 2023. Of these, 67 cases involved a victim with mental capacity concerns.

Known as a hidden crime, the work we carry out plays a vital role in protecting and advocating for the individuals forced into a marriage against their will or without the knowledge to consent due to not having capacity.

In the last year, we have issued court proceedings to protect five individuals after being instructed by local authorities, who had been made aware of these situations. Through our strong working relationship with our communities and our local authority connections, we have been able to represent local authorities in urgent applications to obtain Forced Marriage Protection Orders. In all five cases, the individuals were vulnerable adults with no capacity to consent to marriage and, in some, they were due to imminently travel abroad.

Our involvement included:

- advising the local authority whether applications for Forced Marriage Protection Order could be made;
- applying for Forced Marriage Protection Orders;
- preparing statements on behalf of the applicant; and
- representing the local authority at court hearings.

Where next?

We put people at the heart of our work and are driven to leave them in a better place than when we first met them. By working with local authorities, we have been able to apply for orders to safeguard vulnerable people and prevent them from being forced into a marriage that they did not consent to and providing them with protection for the future.

Partnerships driving social and affordable housing

The development of truly affordable homes is of urgent need in the era of a growing housing crisis. The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and five of the leading housing associations in West Midlands have joined forces, recognising their position and joint power to tackle the housing dilemma through a collaborative partnering agreement.

We have supported the five housing associations, Bromford Housing, Citizen Housing, GreenSquareAccord, Midland Heart and Walsall Housing Group, collectively the Homes for the West Midlands LLP (HWM LLP), in its partnership with the WMCA.

Accelerating the delivery of affordable homes in the West Midlands

With more than 6,500 households waiting for affordable and social housing in the region, the collaboration has the potential to build 1,000 new homes over the next decade, starting in Sandwell.

In order to reach this first collaborative project, our work with both HWM LLP and WMCA included:

- establishing and drafting the HWM LLP deed;
- drafting the collaborative partnering agreement; and
- drafting the property and the construction documents for the initial project in Sandwell.

We also provided advice on governance, procurement and subsidy control. For the ongoing project at Sandwell, we will be supporting the partnership with commercial, property and construction advice.

Unlocking development

Social housing is a key sector in our firm and through this innovative partnership, we are helping the acceleration of affordable housing in the region, unlocking new sites for development, and supporting the government's renewed focus on housebuilding.

Making charity status accessible to all

Our charitable work, and our work with charities, is core to our purpose of leaving the planet in a better state than when we joined it. With the charity sector under increased pressure, and more people crying out for support, making charity registrations accessible for all is central to our social value work.

Working with a range of sectors from construction to faith-based organisations, we have supported charities across the entire spectrum – from the most cash-strapped start-ups to multi-million-pound corporations already operating on a national scale – ensuring our work doesn't discriminate.

With the Charity Commission rejecting around half of all registration attempts, we are proud of our near-100% success rate. We help individuals and organisations weigh up their charitable status options, support with governing documentation and effectively register them to ensure they can deliver on their charitable aims and interests. We even help high growth charities to ensure they have the right corporate structure for future success.

What we're doing about it

With most charities already feeling the squeeze on their budgets, it is more important than ever to look at where opportunities may lie for them and it goes beyond simply registering them correctly for example, reviewing contracts and seeking income generating solutions. With a 'can do' attitude, we believe nothing is beyond the scope of our imagination for our charity clients. We make, create and encourage charities to set-up, give and grow wherever possible.

This year we have:

- Grown our charity work by 247 new clients
- Achieved nearly 100% success rate in registrations
- Averaged more than one registration per week

Looking to the future

We are receiving more enquiries now than ever from people seeking registration assistance and we can say with confidence that the volume of enquiries is only going to increase in the next 12 months. We take the work we do for all our clients very seriously, especially when charity service users are in grave need of support. Whether small start-ups or national, well-established charities, we look forward to continuing to push boundaries on their behalf.

We have no doubt that we are going to see continued growth in the future. This work is so important, and we're determined to keep charity registrations accessible for all.

Helping to overcome financial exclusion

With 'inclusion' improvements in different areas high on the agenda for many, financial inclusion and its role in helping people who have experienced financial hardship, can sometimes be overlooked.

Our work with a not-for-profit organisation aims to improve access to credit and borrowing for those who need it the most when they need it the most.

With many individuals facing financial vulnerability, we helped this organisation in its mission to increase the financial resilience and well-being of people in vulnerable circumstances, in particular those in difficult multiple debt situations.

How this is being achieved

In a bid to consolidate cases of multiple high-interest debts for those who have found themselves on the wrong side of financial good fortune, the organisation wanted to invest in a credit union in order to support loan consolidation. In doing so, it aimed to help people get back on an even footing and better manage multiple debts in one loan repayment at a sensible rate of interest - paving the way for a better, more secure future.

Our work has included:

- advising on the mechanisms of how to invest in credit unions;
- how you can invest and importantly what you can't do in this highly regulated space;
- negotiating for the client with the credit union;
- supporting and advising on the subsequent subscription agreement; and
- securing and completing the investment

Future for financial and social justice

This financial inclusion mechanism is one example of how much impact access to fair finances can have on the lives of those who just need a helping hand. Financial inclusion afforded by partnerships between credit unions and not-for-profit organisations takes society one step closer to transforming lives and communities with great effect.



Anthony
Collins

anthonycollins.com