

Paperweight Perspective

An Inside Job



BY ABIGAIL COX,
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

I wish I'd known about Paperweight eight years ago when we moved our parents to London from the

provinces. As their health declined, so their need for help increased and the endless form-filling began - throw in an unscrupulous landlord and we had to become lawyers, doctors and bureaucrats overnight. For many in our community, the admin associated with life can be overwhelming, whether it is their own lives or those of their loved ones.

In my first two weeks in my new role as Communications Coordinator at Paperweight, I have been fortunate enough to spend time immersing myself in the amazing and hugely varied work of our charity - from our incredible volunteer team leaders and assessors - the first responders to all calls in to Paperweight - to some of the selfless volunteer caseworkers who use their extensive knowledge, experience and valuable free time to help

and support our clients across the UK.

One of the main things which has struck me during my short time here is that Paperweight is for everyone. It's not just for those who have a particular condition or illness or for those experiencing one of life's challenges. It is unique - in the breadth of its work and those it helps. Poor mental and physical health are frequently bound together with all of the above, but particularly with debt issues, which can be improved by the FCA registered Paperweight Debt team which can tackle debt at the highest level

What I have also learnt is that as with my siblings and my experiences with our parents, client cases are rarely straightforward or one-dimensional. Often, what began as a call regarding help for receiving benefits due to a cancer diagnosis, for example, can lead to a need for an LPA (Lasting Power of Attorney) or helping a homeless person regain entry into the

care system can lead to long-term help with debt-management, enabling them to regain some control over their life once again. Helping people at their most vulnerable due to age, illness, bereavement, debt or a myriad of other situations is why Paperweight is here - and why we are here for everyone.

All our staff and volunteers are vetted, fully trained and all calls are confidential - a great comfort when you are feeling overwhelmed and at your most vulnerable. At Paperweight, we understand that for many in our community, asking for help can be the hardest thing, especially when it comes to finances, but our team leaders and case workers have the knowledge, experience and contacts to lift that weight.

My job is all about communications - talking and writing - raising awareness of the Paperweight Trust and the amazing work we do. I want to shout it from the

rooftops, but a more effective way is through our press, our synagogues and Rabbi's and community leaders nationwide. I want everyone to know that help is there, but it's not just the clients and their friends and family who need to know about us. We are always looking for volunteers and professionals who can offer pro bono support - so I need to ensure they are aware and inspired to offer their time. It is important to remember that Paperweight is a charity offering its services free of charge to every member of the UK Jewish community in need, so attracting donors and communicating about fundraising events is a vital part of my role.

If my first two weeks are anything to go by, there are exciting times ahead as I build relationships and use my role to metaphorically shout from the rooftops that Paperweight is here in the centre of our community, ready to help.

If my first two weeks are anything to go by, there are exciting times ahead.

To contact Paperweight for help, to potentially volunteer or to donate, please call 0330 174 4300 or email info@paperweight.org.uk

**We can't
take away
the grief,
but we can help
with some of
the chaos that
comes with it.**



After a bereavement, whatever your administrative, legal or financial problems, our caseworkers, based in London, Manchester and Gateshead, have the expertise to help. And it's all free of charge.

To access our services, or to make a donation to support our work, call 0330 174 4300 or visit paperweight.org.uk

[instagram.com/paperweighttrustlondon](https://www.instagram.com/paperweighttrustlondon)

[facebook.com/WeArePaperweight](https://www.facebook.com/WeArePaperweight)

paperweight

Guide. Advocate. Resolve.

The Paperweight Trust Registered Charity 1146302 Registered Company 07705745