

Tony is carer to his disabled wife and has a young daughter. His down to earth, focussed and client centred approach is what makes Benefit Resolutions tick and achieve the remarkable results it does. As co-founder, Tony brings years of hands on experience, success stories, skill and certified training in the field of welfare law, tribunal representation and advocacy. Tony is passionate about clients' rights. He does not make any guarantees but if you have been wronged by the DWP or similar Tony will fight your corner and ensure your rights are met and adhered to and you get the benefits you deserve. His success rate speaks for itself and one we are very proud of!

Tony is CAB trained to represent people at Tribunal and has a certificate in welfare rights representation. He and his disabled wife have had to face over 8 tribunals over the past five years and has won every single case, including his bedroom tax appeal. Tony is known as the 'bull dog' because once you are his client, he simply will not let go until the issues have been resolved. You definitely want Tony in your corner and those of us who have joined the team or act as volunteers do so because we have been on the receiving end of his remarkable ability to resolve our own personal seemingly intractable cases!

Click on this link to learn more about Tony's personal story:

My Personal Story – Tony Lea:

*Born and raised in London, as a young child of 4, I experienced violence within my family. By the age of 15 I was imprisoned in a youth centre and from there went straight into "care". From 16 to 25, I was heavily involved in drugs (and in the criminal activity associated with drug use). I spent a number of years abroad and then at the age of 30 I suffered a mental breakdown – "I hated the world and myself in it".*

*In 2005, after 10 years of just about surviving within the British mental health "system", I attended a training course on building self esteem, and with the support of others, my life started to change for the better. I started volunteering for a community based organisation, offering help and support to other people with mental health problems. At this time I thought about creating and advocacy outreach support service, the idea developed and emerged, and encouraged by a local Volunteering organisation, I contacted the Scarman Trust for a small grant and support to get the idea off the ground.*

*I worked voluntarily via this outreach service from September 2006 to Nov 2013. It was, in essence, an advocacy, signposting and facilitation service for people who suffer from poor mental health and other problems. My experience of the "system" and its shortcomings, my empathy, and my realistic and tenacious approach, means that I was able to find common ground between service users and service providers, often where others have failed. In the first six months of activity, I helped around thirty people to reach satisfactory conclusions to what were, at the outset, seemingly intractable problems. The service provided meant that individuals are much less likely to become angry or to behave anti-socially; furthermore, the pressures on over-stretched mainstream services are alleviated, meaning that they are able to work more effectively.*

*During my work particularly within the realms of mental health, I discovered the most effective way I could help service users was to ensure their welfare rights were being met, as unjust sanctions or refusal to allow access to services, meant that mental health or any disability was daily being exacerbated unnecessarily which in turn causes great stress on not only service users but also the community and services as a whole. No amount of counselling or therapeutic support was going to alleviate a client's condition if they are facing homeless or increased poverty as a result of unjust benefit cuts. This front line 'on the ground' experience over the years is how Benefit Resolutions evolved. My sole goal now is to provide a focussed, affordable outreach no risk service for the vulnerable purely based on benefit entitlements.*