

23 Sept 2022 Webinar

**Supporting** Social **Prescribing** clients with **Debt and Budgeting** challenges in London



SUPPORTED BY

**MAYOR OF LONDON** 



AGENDA			
12.30 5 mins	Dan Hopewell, Bromley by Bow Centre Matt Creamer, Health & Wellbeing Team, Communities & Skills Directorate, GLA Welcome and opening comments		
12:40 10 mins	Melissa Hatch, national policy team, Citizens Advice What is the current situation with debt and how is it likely to evolve over the next 12 months, and what support is available?		
12:50 10 mins	Victoria Copeland, London team, MaPS/ Money Helper What support is available nationally and locally		
13:00 10 mins	Sarah Monaghan, Step Change An outline of what help and advice is available from a debt advice provider.		
13:10 10 mins	Lizzy Mahoney, Financial Hardship Team, GLA An outline of what help and advice is available in London.		
13:20 10min	Damon Gibbons, Centre for Responsible Credit A London good practice case study: Financial Shield Southwark and FlexMyRent		
13:40 10min	Mokshuda Ali and Tahmina Begum Bromley by Bow Centre London good practice case study 2: Bromley by Bow Centre		
2:00	Close		

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### **Outline**

- About Citizens Advice
- How we collect our data
- What our data can show
- The Ask



### The role of advice in health

1

Reducing Health inequalities through social equality

2

Improving client resilience and wellbeing

3

Investments in advice cause savings within health budgets

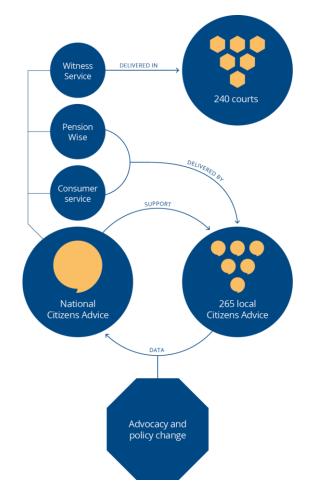
### How our service works

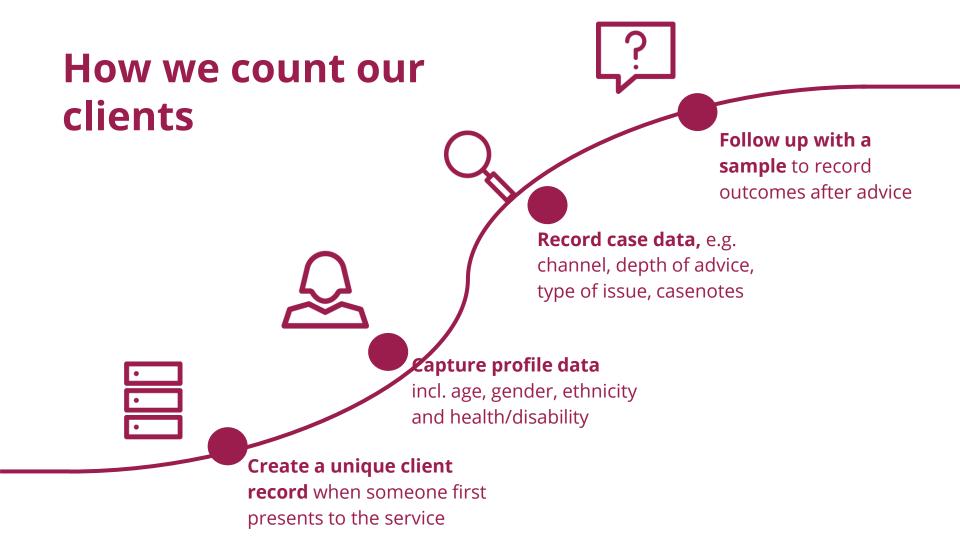
Our **national charity** and **network of local charities** offer **confidential advice** online, over the phone, and in person, **for free.** 

Last year we gave advice, support or information to **2.45 million** people directly by **phone**, **email**, **webchat**, **or face to face**.

Our website had over **62.8 million pageviews** and over **6.6 million views of coronavirus** advice pages.

Our reach means **99% of people** in England and Wales can access a **local Citizens Advice within a 30 minute drive** of where they live.





### **Data uses**

Organisational uses

Assessing local impacts or access to services

Local Authority level planning, service commissioning

Assessments and evaluation of service needs and take up

Population Health Management

**Early Warning** - emerging needs for commissioning purposes e.g. increases in debt or small scale local redundancies

**Impact of policies/legislation** - Council Tax recovery methods.

#### **Planning purposes**

- Trend data e.g. Covid impact
- Services need to meet crisis need
- Identifying preventative solutions from crises presented

**Disproportionate impact** - demographics of people most impacted

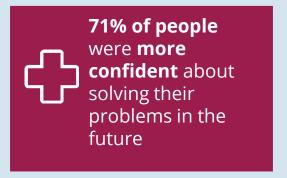


### What impact does our advice have?

#### For the people we help...







For society...

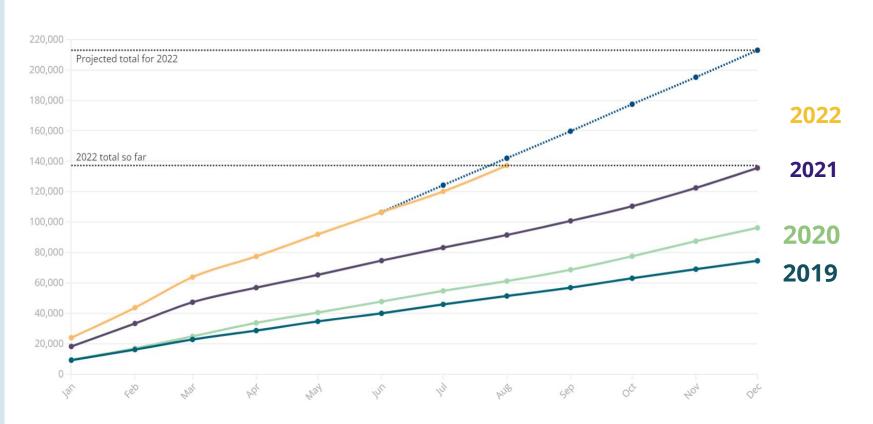
**£618 million** in fiscal savings

**£4.3 Billion** in public savings

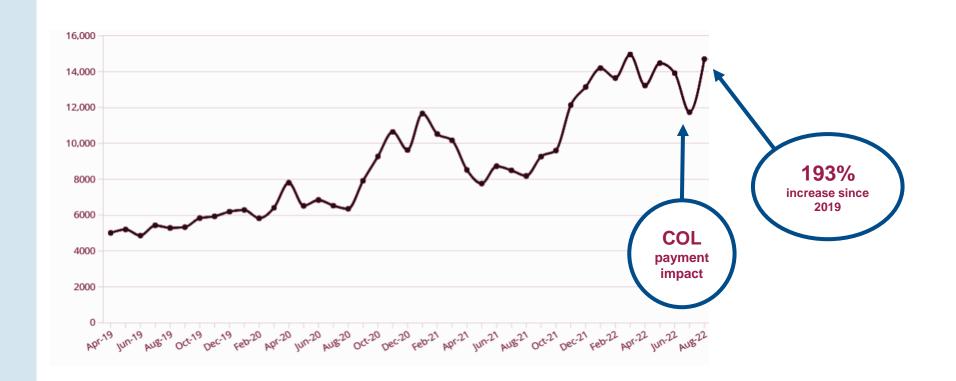
£2.7 Billion in savings to individuals

# Citizens Advice Cost of Living Data and overview of debt.

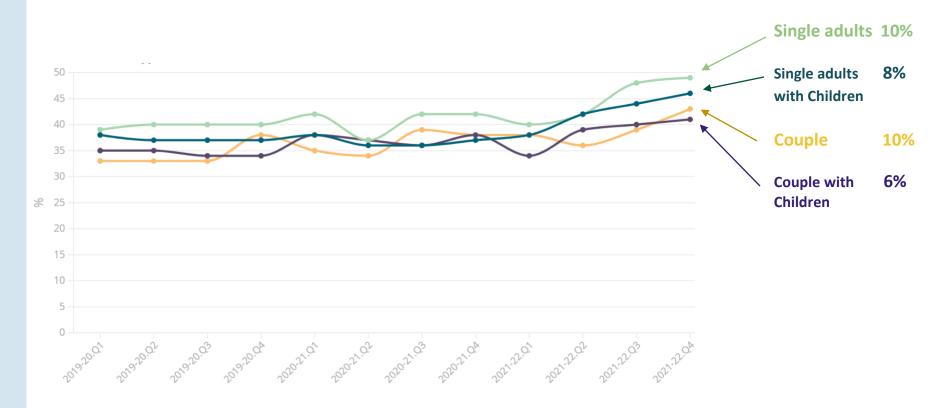
### Cumulative number of people we've helped with crisis support each year



### The number of people we refer to food banks

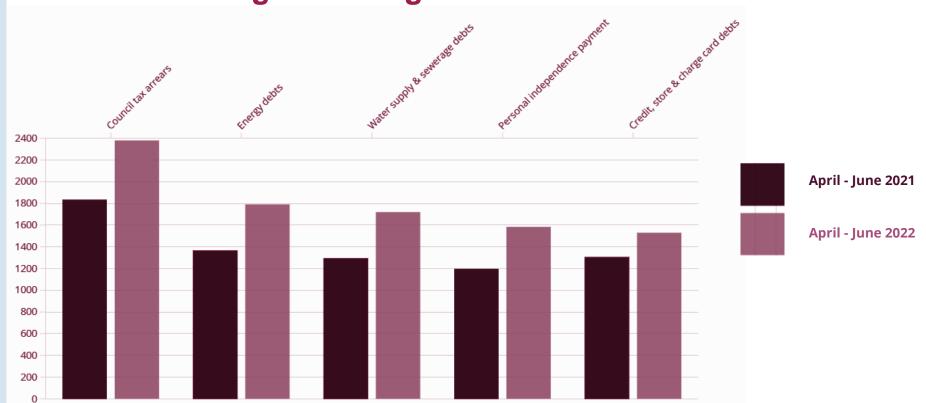


### Percentage of people we have helped with debt issues in a negative budget by housing type



Someone is in a negative budget when their necessary expenditure exceeds their income.

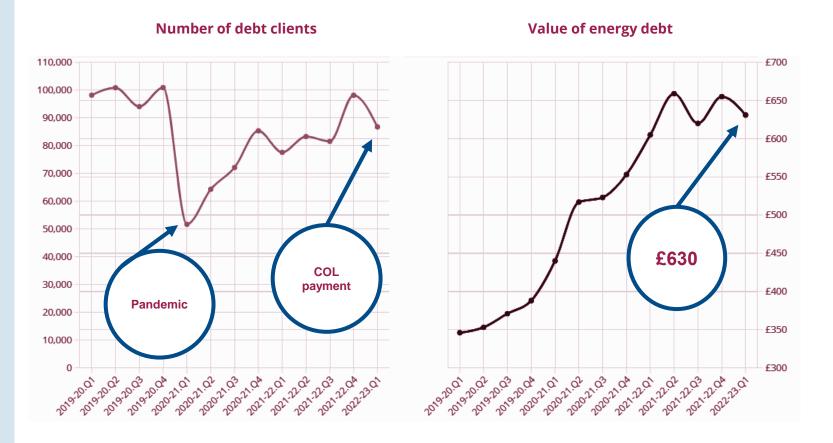
### Top 5 before and during cost of living issues for clients who are in a negative budget



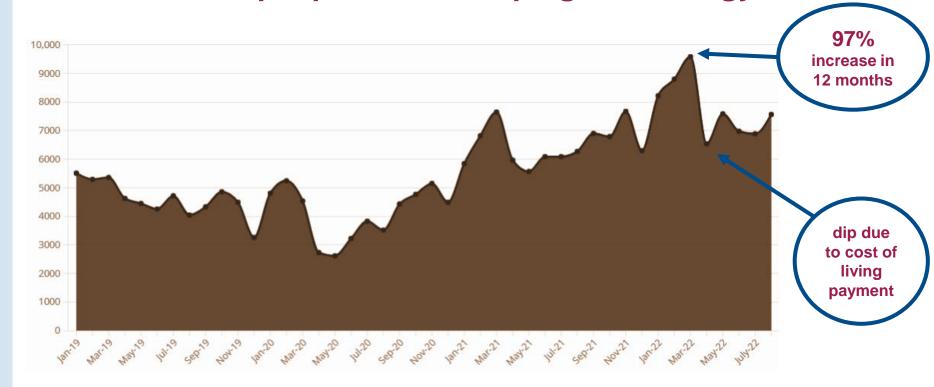
### The number of people we are helping to deal with energy debt repayment issues every month



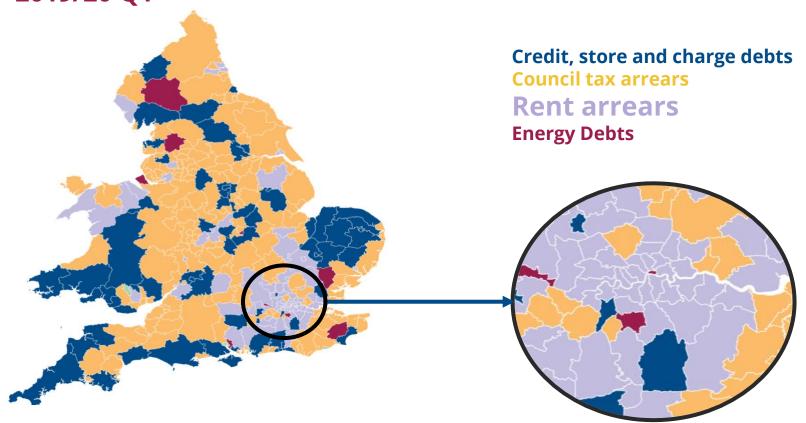
### Number of people we've helped with debt issues and the value of energy debt



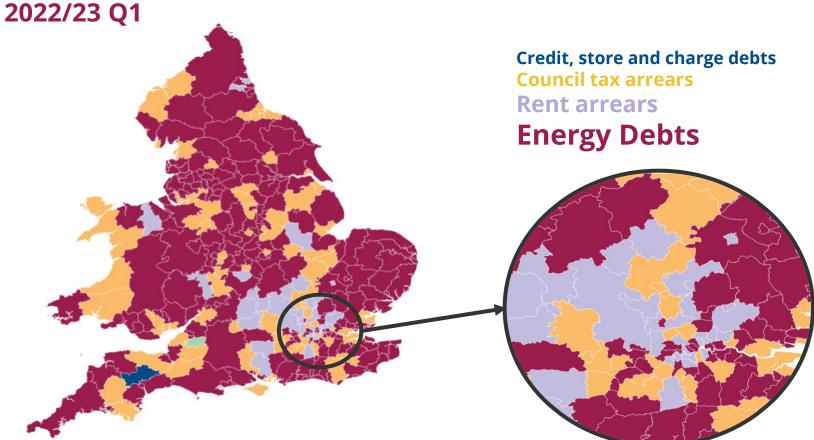
The number of people we are helping with energy debt



The most common types of debt issues we help people with 2019/20 Q1



The most common types of debt issues we help people with



### What support is available?



#### **Cost of living support**

- A £650 payment for people on the lowest incomes
- A £300 payment for pensioners who receive the winter fuel payment
- A £150 payment for people in receipt of disability benefits
- The £200 energy rebate scrapped, replaced with of £400 discount for all households this autumn
- Freezing energy bills at £2,500, with £400 discount keeps the price cap at the current rate.

#### **Get advice on our Citizens Advice website**

- If you owe money and you're struggling to pay
- Check what benefits you can get
- Get your benefit paid early
- Check what help you can get from your local council
- Check what help you can get from the government

- Get help with essential costs
- Work out your budget
- Apply for a charitable grant
- If you're finding things difficult

### What action are we calling for now?

- Government need to be transparent now as to how this is going to be paid for - we don't want the costs adding to customer bills later.
- The government needs to stand ready to provide more support for people on the very sharp end of this crisis.
- No one should be chased for a debt they can't pay or force people onto a prepayment meter this winter.



### **Thank You**



You can find the data sets discussed in this presentation on our Citizens Advice Tableau <u>here</u>

For more information email Markets@citizensadvice.org.uk

# Money & Pensions Service (MaPS)

Supporting Social Prescribing clients with debt and budgeting issues in the context of cost of living in London 2022

Victoria Copeland Regional Partnerships Manager, West London Victoria.copeland@maps.org.uk 07773 046217



### Agenda



- 1. Money and Pension Service, who are we and why do we exist?
- 2. What we do, our priorities and how we shaped them
- 3. The UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing
- 4. Money Helper Practical support, information, and guidance
- 5. Cost of Living Crisis updated tools you can share with your clients

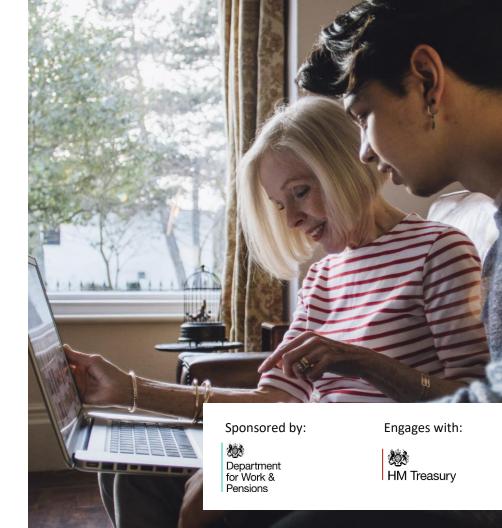
Money and Pensions Service 24

### Who we are

We are here to help people throughout the UK access the guidance and information they need to make effective financial decisions over their lifetime.

### **MoneyHelper**

Our consumer service MoneyHelper is the easy way for your audiences to get clear, free, impartial money and pensions guidance that's on your side and backed by government.



### The 2018 Financial Guidance and Claims Act

#### Statutory objectives

- Improve the ability of members of the public to make informed financial decisions
- Support the provision of information, guidance and advice in areas where it is lacking
- Secure that information, guidance and advice is provided to members of the public in the clearest and most costeffective way (including having regard to information provided by other organisations)
- Ensure that information, guidance and advice is available to those most in need of it (and to allocate its resources accordingly), bearing in mind in particular the needs of people in vulnerable circumstances
- Work closely with the devolved authorities as regards the provision of information, guidance and advice to members of the public in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

#### **Statutory functions**

- Pensions guidance
- Debt advice
- Money guidance
- Consumer protection
- Strategic

### Delivering our objectives and functions

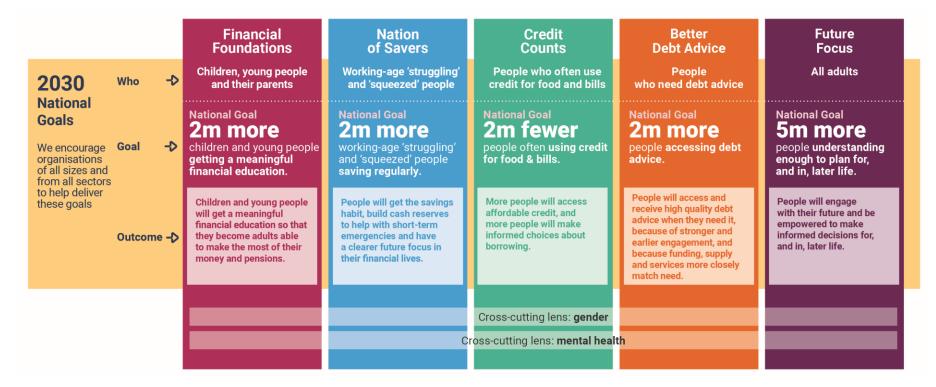
#### We will:

- 1. Help people prepare for the future with pension guidance
- 2. Help people in crisis through delivering debt advice
- 3. Help those most in need with money guidance
  - Focusing on filling gaps in service
  - Delivering money help into existing customer journeys in the public sector
- 4. Use our customer reach to help protect individuals from financial crime and miss-selling
- 5. Create and support a **financial wellbeing strategy** for all
- 6. Earn the trust of government and the devolved administrations in our ability to deliver – being seen as easy to deal with and an effective delivery arm for key government priorities

Money and Pensions Service 26

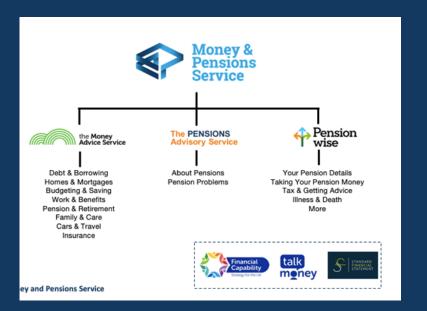
### **UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing**

**2030** goals



Money and Pensions Service 27

# The new MaPS consumer brand, three brands, one point of contact.





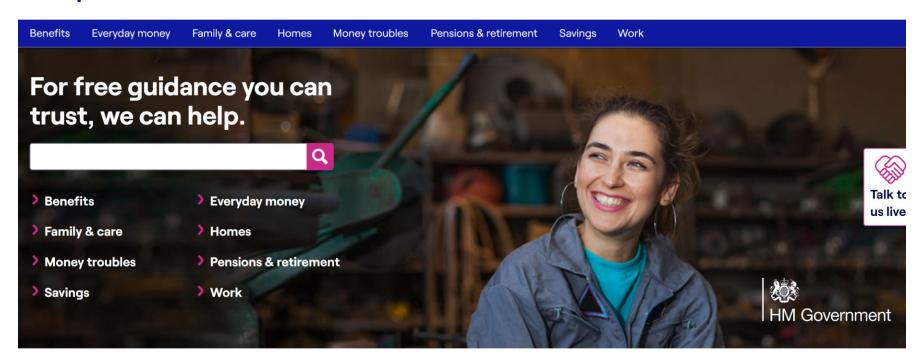


### MaPS Resources – what we offer



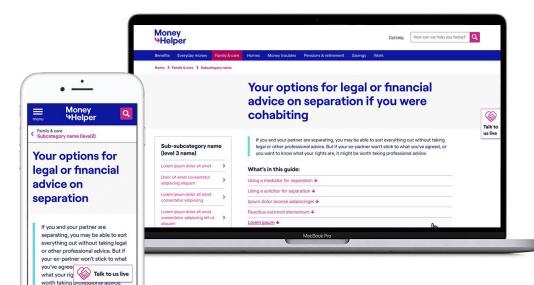


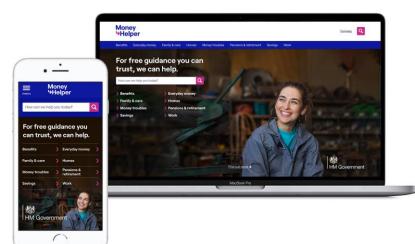
<u>Cymraeg</u>

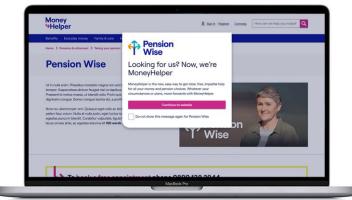


Money and Pensions Service 29

### Website



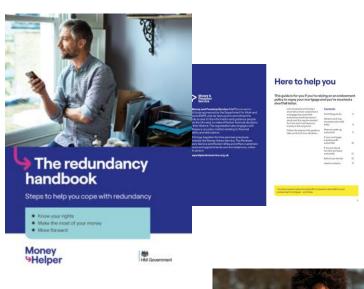




### Free printed guides

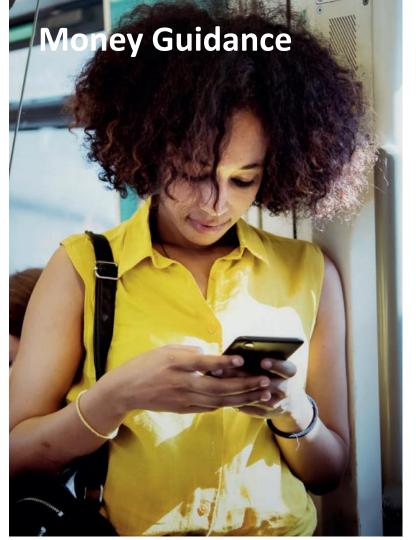












#### Talk to us live for money guidance using the telephone



**&** 0800 138 7777\*

Welsh: 0800 138 0555\*

Typetalk: 18001 0800 915 4622\*

From overseas: +44 20 3553 2279

#### Hours

Mon - Fri: 8.00am - 6.00pm

Sat, Sun and

bank holidays: Closed

\* Calls are free. We're committed to providing you with a quality service, so calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes and to help us develop our services.

#### Talk to us live for money guidance using WhatsApp



+44 77 0134 2744

Download app: WhatsApp

For help sorting out your debts, credit questions or pensions guidance. For everything else please contact us via Webchat or Telephone.



#### Talk to us live for money guidance using web chat



Start web chat

#### Hours

Mon - Fri: 8.00am - 6.00pm Sat: 8.00am - 3.00pm

Sun and bank

holidays: Closed



4

The pandemic has been an unprecedented and challenging time for us all. For many, the impacts and challenges still exist today. Now, more than ever, people need money guidance and debt advice to get their finances back on track. Our partners and stakeholders play a key role in helping provide this support.

5.7m

low-income UK households on Universal Credit.†

5<sub>m</sub>

families affected by Fuel Stress\* 4.4m

new or increased borrowing through the pandemic.\*\*

3.8m

low-income UK households in arrears.\*\*



### Who needs help?

We've gathered insights and consumer research from across the UK, identifying the key groups who need our help most.

People struggling to keep on top of their bills and payments



People who have or are worried about losing their job



People with a reduction in income or squeezed budgets



Self-employed people who are struggling with financial challenges



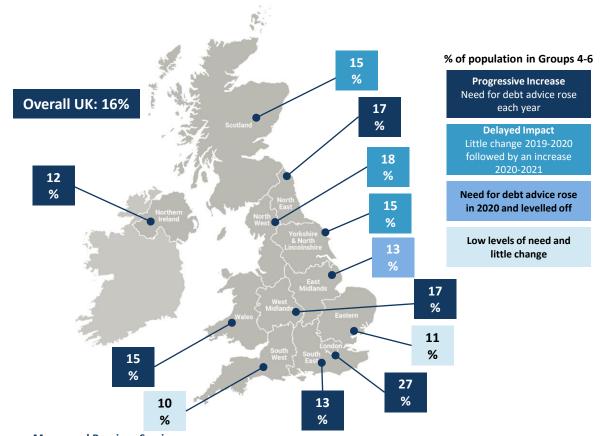
### Debt remains a key issue



Group	Need For Debt Advice	No. People in UK	
1	No signs of needing advice or guidance	6 34.0 Million	
2	Would benefit from money guidance via the MoneyHelper website or other sources	2 10.6 Million	These two groups combined represent people at risk, a cohort we need to support so their situation
3	At a tipping point and need to seek guidance before their situation worsens		does not worsen
4-6	Strong indications of needing debt advice	1 8.5 Million	This group need full debt advice from a regulated provider

### Need for debt advice 2019-2021

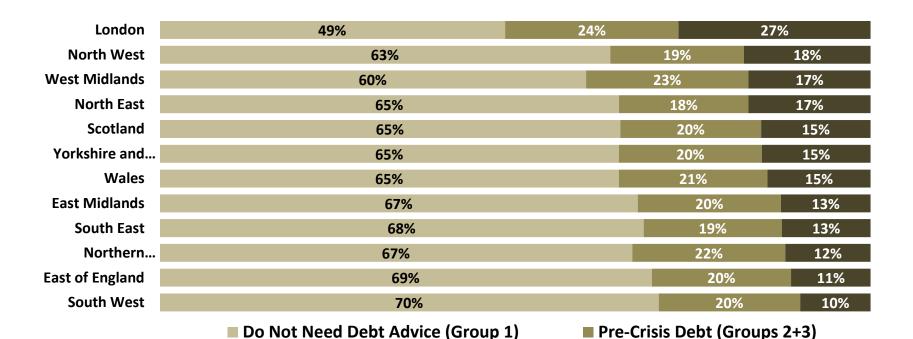




- Data from these 3 years covers pre-pandemic, midpandemic and for 2021
- Every region and nation has been impacted, only the scale and timing is different
- We shouldn't lose sight of the need for advice in regions such as London and the South East of England which are thought of as "affluent"



### London tops the leader board for all the wrong reasons



Money and Pensions Service [Document title] 37

## Debt Advice, free, confidential, impartial

#### Did you know?

Most people who have got debt advice tell us they feel less stressed or anxious and more in control of their life again

#### On this page you can find:

- Online debt advice services
- Telephone debt advice services
- Face-to-face debt advice services

All of the services below are free, confidential and hold a standard or membership code accredited by the Money and Pensions Service.

#### Online debt advice services



Online services are secure and you can get immediate, personalised help. Some services are available 24 hours a day.



Money and Pensions Service [Document title]



## **Bill prioritiser**

In a couple steps this tool helps people prioritise and tackle bills and payments they might be struggling with. This is for people who are in a 'pre-arrears' space, and can help them avoid missing payments or route them to debt advice if they require it.



People select which bills or payments they are worried about.

Step 2

They are provided with a prioritised list of bills to tackle first.

Visit the Bill prioritiser



MoneyHelper

## Videos on offer

These can be embedded on your digital channels (for example, websites, newsletters) or shared via social media.



#### Find your way forward with MoneyHelper

An overarching video which explains MoneyHelper's various services and how it can help.



Job Loss / Redundancy
Key actions to help people navigate job
loss and understand their situation.



**Budgeting**An introduction to budgeting and some tips on how to budget.



**Self-Employed Budgeting for Tax** A targeted video for self-employed taxpayers.



**Talking to your creditor**How to talk with creditors if struggling to keep up with commitments.

MoneyHelper 40

## How we can help the public through Social Prescribing

The Money and Pensions Service brings together the delivery of money guidance, pensions guidance and the strategic direction and delivery of debt advice, to help people make effective financial decisions throughout their lives.



Through the **Money Helper**, we will help patients access the guidance and information they need to make effective financial decisions over their lifetime.

It may well be that some of your patients are suffering with health issues that are compounded by money worries or caused by them.

To support their financial wellbeing, if your patients have money worries, or other money and pension guidance needs, you can refer them to our Money Helper Contact Centre

### **Specific number for Social Prescribers to use to refer clients:**

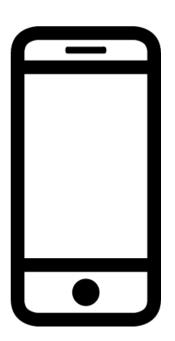
**Free Phone Contact Number** 

Give us a call for free and impartial money support 0800 448 814

Typetalk: 18001 0800 915 4622

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday - 8am to 6pm

Weekends and Bank Holidays closed







# Helping with problem debt

Helen Handzel September 2022

### Who we are





The UK's leading provider of free, independent debt advice



Over 29 years' experience



Flexible debt advice online or by phone to suit the clients' needs



The broadest range of solutions



Additional support for particularly vulnerable clients

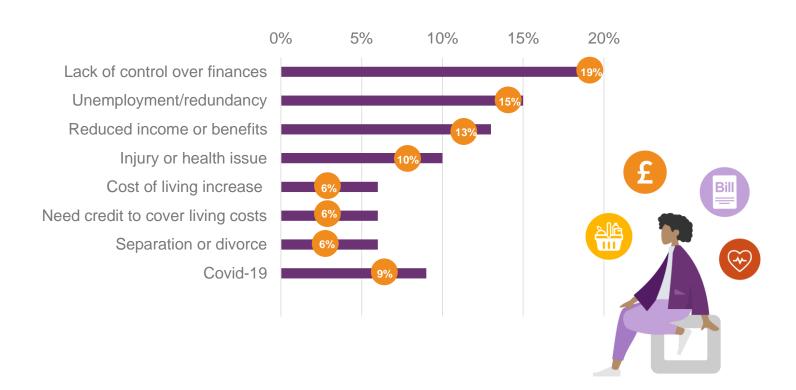


Working together with over 900 partner organisations





In 2021, the most common reasons for debt as cited by our new clients were:





### The most common signs of problem debt



Not enough money at the end of the month



No contingency for one-off costs



Maxed-out credit limits



Missed or late payments



Little spending on food or other essentials

## How we help



We work with clients to create an income and Step expenditure statement Step We identify the most appropriate solution for the client They receive a personalised action plan, Step offering them access to a range of suitable debt solutions Step We set up their managed solution, or advise them on what to do next Step We provide advice and aftercare until they've financially recovered

Our priority is to intervene earlier, to prevent people from getting into problem debt in the first place.





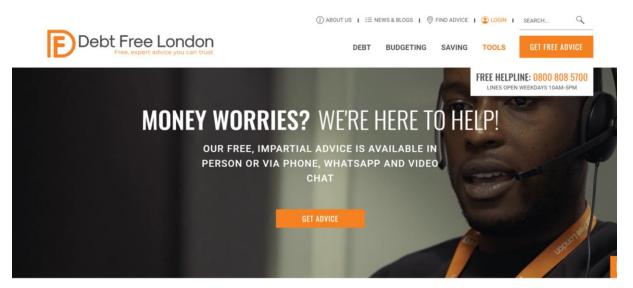
#### **MAYOR OF LONDON**

## An outline of help and advice available in London

#### **LONDON CONTEXT**

- GLA/ YouGov polling in August 2022 showed 20% of lower-income Londoners have regularly or occasionally gone without food or essential items or relied on outside support in the last six months.
- 30% of Londoners are "just about managing"
- A further 20% are "financially struggling"

#### **DEBT-FREE LONDON**



Call 0800 808 5700

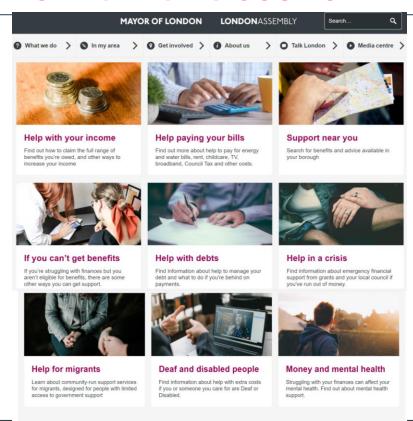
Or visit debtfree.lon don

#### **DEBT.** IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK.

In London, over 1.4 million adults struggle to make ends meet. Join the 250,000 people who have already benefited from free debt advice from dedicated staff across our partnership of FCA regulated charities throughout London.

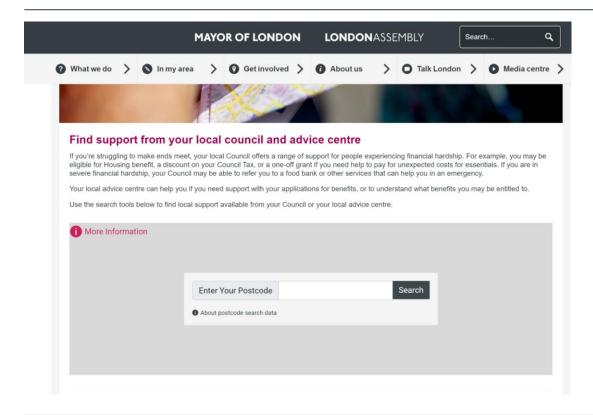


#### MAYOR OF LONDON'S COST OF LIVING HUB



Search
"Mayor of
London Cost
of Living"

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**



Search
"Mayor of
London Cost
of Living"

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**



#### Cost of living hub



The rising costs of fuel, food and other essentials are combining with existing disadvantage and vulnerability within our communities to put many households at greater risk of both immediate hardship and reduced opportunity and wellbeing.

Councils and local partners have delivered remarkable services and support and will continue to do what they can to protect people against higher costs, targeting help at those facing the most complex challenges.

This hub has been designed to share best practice and help co



## Search "LGA Cost of Living Hub"



September 2022

#### **Pilot objectives**

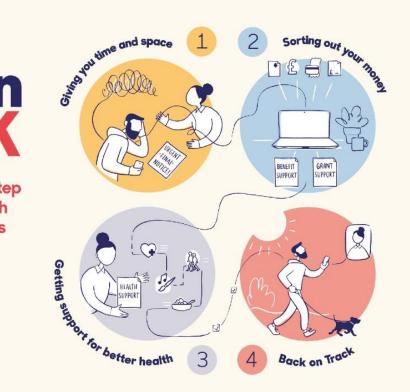
☐ Improve the health and financial well-being outcomes for working age people who either have, or are at risk of developing, long-term health conditions *and* who are experiencing financial problems. ☐ Pilot approach with **residents in parts of Lambeth and Southwark** through to end of March 2023. ☐ Testing **new referral pathways**, and co-ordination with local creditor organisations. ☐ Evaluating outcomes for service users, health agencies, and creditors to see if we can create a sustainable funding model to support wider roll-out.

#### Health, advice & creditor agencies working together

- GP practices search their patient lists for working age individuals with, or at risk of, long-term health conditions.
- GP practices send out text messages and provide leaflets to patients alerting them to the new 'Back on Track' service.
- Residents responding positively can check eligibility and book either **face to face or telephone** appointments through a website or using a freepost return slip on the leaflet.
- Social Prescribers can also make referrals using the website.
- To access the project, residents must consent to share information with creditors. These check for outstanding debts, and if these are present put a 60-day hold on enforcement once residents are on-boarded.
- The service maximises income, provides basic debt advice, and liaises back with Social Prescribers and creditors regarding the outcomes.

## BACK on TRACK

A free and confidential 4 step programme for people with long-term health conditions and money worries.



#### **Co-ordinating arrears recovery**

- The **Joint Creditor Forum** brings together Lambeth and Southwark councils with four participating housing associations.
- Where a resident owes money to more than one of the participating creditors, members will co-ordinate arrears recovery based on information received from the Financial Support Link Workers.
- This includes working together to monitor any repayment arrangements that have been put in place on an ongoing basis.
- Most recently, some creditors are looking to provide 'debt relief' to residents unable to make an offer of repayment at the end of support.

#### **Progress to date**

- Around 1,200 referrals received and 750 successfully onboarded. Around 600 cases closed.
- Reaching people who were not previously receiving support with their finances, with many in poor mental health.
- Positive outcomes reported in about 40% of cases, with average income gains of approx. £1,500 per year.
- Around one in five accessing the agreed 60-day hold on enforcement.
- However, few tenants of the participating housing associations, so more work to be done to test the Joint Debt Recovery Protocol.

#### **Evaluation**

Independent evaluation being led by **Cordis Bright**, including an assessment of costs and benefits. Mainly **qualitative interviews** currently:

"I received texts from my doctors' clinic asking me if I needed some financial help, and I said yes. Back then I needed help because I didn't know where to get help from – the text was very useful."

"I thought they [Financial Support Link Worker] were brilliant. Whatever I needed, they would go with, which was good, because sometimes you can feel a bit trapped in the corner when you're going through things."

"I didn't know that those benefits were available. It was very, very complicated. I knew nothing about the benefits although I've had the condition for the last 20 years. I'd never had access to these benefits before, even at times when I really, desperately needed them."

"I'm now not having to worry about if I've got enough money because he's got me on PIP. I don't have to think, "Oh, I can't afford to put the heating on today. Now I can afford to get a taxi to go shopping because I struggle to walk, and not have to worry."

Further information is available from the Financial Shield Website (<a href="https://financial-shield.uk">https://financial-shield.uk</a>). Please sign up for our mailing list, and follow us on Twitter (@Fin\_Shield\_UK)



## Questions?

Join our **Financial Shield Learning Network** by signing up to our mailing list at <a href="https://www.financial-shield.uk/mailing-list">https://www.financial-shield.uk/mailing-list</a>



## **Bromley by Bow Centre**

The benefits of collaborative working and colocation between Social Prescribing, Debt and Financial Inclusion projects

**Tahmina Begum and Mokshuda Ali** 



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	RESOURCES
Mayor of London's Cost of Living Hub	https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/communities/help-cost-living
MoneyHelper	0800 448 814; <a href="https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en">https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en</a> MoneyHelper posters, leaflets and Z Cards are available for Practices and community settings; these are generic for all MoneyHelper money guidance and support topics. Languages include Polish, Somali, Punjabi etc. more info email <a href="mailto:victoria.copeland@maps.org.uk">victoria.copeland@maps.org.uk</a>
Energy costs and support explainer	https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting/what-to-do-if-worried-about-energy-bills-rising
Step Change	debt advice telephone line: 0800 138 1111, <a href="https://www.stepchange.org/">https://www.stepchange.org/</a> / For anyone interested in materials (i.e. posters/leaflets) please drop us an email at partnerships@stepchange.org you can also enquire about referral forms using this email address
The Business DebtLine	https://www.businessdebtline.org/
Debt Free London	https://debtfree.london/
GLA Cost of Living Hub (for professionals)	https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/safer-and-more-sustainable-communities/cost-living-hub
Latest London data on the cost of living	Access data here.
Bromley by Bow Centre	https://www.bbbc.org.uk/services/save-energy-and-money/
Healthy London Partnership website for Social Prescribing Link Workers	SPLWs website / Past events resources
SPLW Discussion Forum: Supporting Social Prescribing clients with Debt and Budgeting challenges in London	https://future.nhs.uk/socialprescribing/messageShowThread?threadid=9834030

 $1. \ How confident are you speaking with your clients about debt and money related is sues? (Single \ Choice) *$ 

93/93 (100%) answered

Not confident at all	(8/93) 9%
Rather not confident	(20/93) 22%
Neither confident or not confident	(29/93) 31%
Rather confident	(26/93) 28%
Very confident	(6/93) 6%
My role does not require talking with clients about debt and money challenges	(4/93) 4%

How often do you speak with your clients about their debt and budgeting challenges? (Single Choice) \*
 93/93 (100%) answered

Never	(2/93) 2%
Very rarely	(5/93) 5%
Rarely	(8/93) 9%
Often	(51/93) 55%
Very often	(22/93) 24%
Always	(5/93) 5%

3. Do you observe a change in the number of clients who need support with debt and budgeting challenges? (Single Choice) \*

93/93 (100%) answered

Significant decrease	(1/93) 1%
Decrease	(0/93) 0%
	(2,22,23
No change observed	(11/93) 12%
Increase	(44/02) 47%
liiciease	(44/93) 47%
Significant increase	(26/93) 28%
I don't know	(11/93) 12%

4. How would you rate the capacity of services providing debt and money advice to clients you refer them? (Single Choice) *	/signpost to
93/93 (100%) answered	
Lack of organisations providing support related to debt and money challenges	(16/93) 17%
Not accepting new clients	(2/93) 2%
Limited capacity to accept new clients	(21/93) 23%
Long waiting lists	(34/93) 37%

Short waiting lists	(5/93) 5%

(13/93) 14%

Very good capacity - organisations actively seeking new clients	(1/93) 1%

Good capacity - accepting new clients

Too many organisations providing support related to debt and money challenges (1/93) 1%



Next Webinar 14<sup>th</sup> October, 12:30-14:00

# Supporting Social Prescribing clients with Housing issues

#### Sign up link:

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