

Press Release

July 19 2011

**CCCS welcomes new debt advice coordination role for the
Money Advice Service**

National debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) has welcomed the announcement that the Money Advice Service (MAS) will perform a central role in the coordination of debt advice across the United Kingdom from April 2012.

The announcement follows the Government's response to the Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review which states that the MAS is well placed to take a role in the coordination of debt advice services, and to develop a model which ensures that debt advice outcomes can be delivered in an effective, efficient way.

Chair of CCCS, Lord Stevenson of Balmacara, said: "Those facing unmanageable debt are often overwhelmed by the mix of organisations offering debt advice, some of whom charge fees which means consumers have to spend longer repaying their debts and repay more. Also, recent research¹ has found that only seven percent of people who had difficulty in keeping up with bills and payments had sought debt advice.

"We therefore welcome the chance to ensure that as many people who are struggling financially get access to free, independent and impartial debt advice."

- ends -

Notes to editors:

¹ Source: BIS, Credit, Debt and Financial Difficulty (2009/10), Figure D1.

1. CCCS's ethos is to help the "can't pays", not the "won't pays", and does not condone debt avoidance. CCCS always aims to help its clients pay back what they owe, in a realistic timescale and manner that is suited to each individual's situation.
2. CCCS is self-funding. Lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them. This allows CCCS to retain its independence and ensure that its advice is always in the best interest of the client.
3. The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
4. CCCS *Debt Remedy* is available at www.cccs.co.uk
5. Follow us on Twitter: @CCCSPressOffice

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