

Press Release

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CCCS says tough economic climate will intensify collaboration between charities

A leading debt charity has said that mounting economic pressures will intensify collaboration between charities over the next few years. Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) says that tough economic conditions along with welfare benefit changes will see increasing numbers seeking advice and support from charities. CCCS predicts that this growing demand on charities, many of whose budgets are under strain, will lead to more strategic partnerships between them to ensure that need is met.

CCCS, which is expanding its partnership team, says that ensuring people are not lured into paying for advice and support which charities provide for free will be one of the driving forces of third sector collaboration.

CCCS says this is already happening within the money advice charitable sector and points to its partnership with Citizens Advice where it is named as the preferred provider of debt management plans in a pilot programme involving 100 bureaux. It says partnership between debt advice charities is crucial to ensure the availability of free debt advice at a time of increasing need and to offer real choice to vulnerable clients targeted by companies who charge for debt advice.

Delroy Corinaldi, CCCS External Affairs Director says: "Many charities, particularly those that provide services, are facing the double whammy of increasing demand and tightening resources.

“Not only is this likely to lead to more charities working together to ensure demand is met, but more innovative partnerships to meet new challenges facing their service users.”

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Notes to editors:

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

Media enquiries:

All media enquiries should be directed to:

Frances Walker - francesw@cccs.co.uk

Una Farrell - unaf@cccs.co.uk

Tel: 0207 391 4583 (07950 469101 if outside office hours)