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Press Release

First nationally regulated Money and Debt Advice qualifications receive accreditation

The first nationally regulated and accredited Diploma and Certificate in Money and Debt Advice has been launched. Created by leading debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) in association with the Institute of Credit Management (ICM), this innovative new qualification has just gained final accreditation on the National Qualifications Framework (QCF) following assessment by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual).

These ICM Level 2 and 3 Certificates and Diplomas in Money and Debt Advice, have been created by CCCS and the ICM in response to a lack of nationally recognised qualifications that combined money and debt advice and include modules in:

- General Money and Debt Advice
- Debt Prioritisation and Collections Process Advice
- County Court Procedures and Enforcement Advice
- Statutory and Non-statutory Debt Solutions
- Money and Debt Advice Call Handling.

Explaining why CCCS developed the new qualifications, Lesley Cheeseman, Head of Training and Development at CCCS, says: "The Diploma and Certificate in Money and Debt Advice fills a gap in the industry where there is currently no assessment of money advisors or validation of their skills and knowledge. The partnership with ICM gave CCCS the ability to pioneer the delivery of formally accredited and nationally regulated qualifications in money and debt advice."

Debbie Tuckwood ICM Head of Education says: “The CCCS initiative gives professional recognition to people who work in this important area. The qualifications are flexible and learners can gain credit and a certificate for a single unit in money and debt advice, or accumulate credit for a Certificate or Diploma qualification.

“Also, they can transfer credit to other qualifications and already we find people working in credit management, debt recovery and collections work including the general unit in other ICM qualifications.

“There will be widespread benefits.”

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Notes for editors:

1. CCCS operates a dedicated free-phone helpline (0800 138 1111), open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
2. CCCS operates *CCCS Debt Remedy*, an online counselling service available round the clock at www.cccs.co.uk for those who prefer an anonymous option.
3. 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.
4. 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. CCCS aims to separate the “can’t pays” from the “won’t pays”.
5. The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) is Europe’s largest credit management organisation. The trusted leader in expertise for all credit matters, it represents the profession across trade, consumer, and export credit, and all credit-related services. Formed over 70 years ago, it is the only such organisation accredited by Ofqual and it offers a comprehensive range of services and bespoke solutions for the credit professional (www.icm.org.uk) as well as services and advice for the wider business community (www.creditmanagement.org.uk).
6. The services offered by the ICM include: Professional membership grades | Recruitment agency | Conferences and seminars | Professional Qualifications and unit awards | Bookshop | A network of local branches | Consultancy | Training | Credit Management Helpline | Online services through icmOS | Credit Management magazine and monthly email briefings | Member website forums | Quality in Credit Management accreditation | Member benefits and discounts | Social networking community