

Press Release

June 27 2012

New trustees join CCCS Scotland board

Three new trustees have joined the board of debt advice charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) Scotland, bringing to the organisation valuable experience from the civil service, credit union movement and business spheres.

Gillian Thompson OBE was the Accountant in Bankruptcy and Agency chief executive from 2002 until 2009 and has a significant record in public service in Scotland, including leading on reforming measures for the payment of tuition in higher education, helping to improve health services, education and employment in the Scottish prison system and playing a key role in the transition from the community charge to council tax in the early nineties.

Marlene Shiels is the chief executive of Capital Credit Union and represents the British credit union movement on the World Council of Credit Unions' (WOCCU) Board of Directors. A board member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland, she is passionate about providing affordable, accessible financial solutions for people of all walks of life and particularly for those in financial difficulty.

Kareen Ryden is a registered trainee practitioner with the Institute of Transactional Analysis (ITA) and a member of the International Transactional Analysis Association. She has a background in law and business, having been a partner in a large law firm and director of a Scottish property consulting company.

She joins the board with a particular interest in the connection between debt and depression.

Lord Stevenson, chair of CCCS Scotland, said: "We are delighted to welcome our new Scottish Board members, who will make a huge contribution to our work on behalf of those who need free debt advice in Scotland, as well as assisting with the introduction of our development plans".

The other trustees of CCCS Scotland are;

- Lord Stevenson (Chair) – Former adviser to Prime Minister Gordon Brown and director of the British Film Institute (1988-97) and Smith Institute (1997-2008)
- Alex Dalgleish – Former director of credit services on the board of House of Fraser (Stores Management) Ltd and past chairman of the Consumer Credit Trade Association
- Jeremy Burton – Trustee of several charities based in the Leeds area and Honorary French Consul in Leeds
- Daniel Phelan – Editor-in-chief of Civil Society Media, which publishes the magazines Charity Finance, Professional Fundraising and Governance, and founder of the Charity Awards
- Sir Geoff Mulcahy – Chairman of retail consultancy Javelin Group, former chief executive of Kingfisher and former chairman of the British Retail Consortium

- ends -

Notes to editors:

1. CCCS Scotland was founded in 1996 and is Scotland's largest provider of specialist online and telephone debt advice. In 2011 the charity counselled almost 4,000 debtors in Scotland via its freephone helpline, and many thousands more via its anonymous online debt counselling tool, CCCS Debt Remedy.
2. CCCS's ethos is to help the "can't pay", not the "won't pay", 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.

3. 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.
4. The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
5. CCCS Debt Remedy is available at www.cccs.co.uk
6. Follow us on Twitter: @CCCSPressOffice

Media enquiries:

All media enquiries should be directed to:

Una Farrell - unaf@cccs.co.uk

Matt Hartley - matthar@cccs.co.uk

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