

Financial Action & Advice Derbyshire

“Making sure that everyone in Derbyshire has enough to live on”

Partnership Strategic Action Plan 2014

Newsletter No 4

6 June 2014

Partnership Update

At its last meeting the FAAD Steering Group agreed to amend its Terms of Reference to enable the group to respond flexibly to changing demands for expertise within the group. The new terms of reference can be found here

[FAAD Steering Group Terms of Reference](#)

The Steering Group an Appendix to the Strategic Action Plan which sets out key milestones for delivery over the next two years.

[Final Strategy with Milestones](#)

A draft communications plan was presented to the Steering Group together with a proposal for managing FAAD's campaigning and social policy role. The Steering Group agreed to develop a Social Policy Reference Group to advise FAAD and be a forum for sharing data, research, good practice and insight in social policy issues. The group would guide, develop and oversee campaigns and work collectively and individually to lobby and influence key decision makers and opinion formers. This work is critical to the delivery of FAADs action plan. Terms of reference are currently being developed and more information will be available in the next few weeks.



Sixth annual ‘My Money Week’, takes place across the UK from 9 - 15 June

My Money Week is a national activity week joint funded by PFEG and Barclays Bank. For primary and secondary schools it provides a fantastic opportunity for young people to gain skills, knowledge and confidence in money matters.

My Money Week aims to increase the quality and quantity of finance education by capturing the imagination of teachers new to the subject, and providing new materials and extension ideas to those already doing it.

Personal Finance Education will become a mandatory part of the Secondary School Maths and Citizenship curriculums and FAAD would encourage teachers to get ahead of the game and get involved in My Money Week.

Free resources for teachers and online training videos can be downloaded from www.pfeg.org/resources

FAAD has secured funding from Money Saving Expert to deliver Personal Finance Education ‘train the trainer’ sessions in Primary Schools. The

sessions will give teachers an overview of the curriculum framework, an opportunity to trial some activities and provide schools with a bank of really useful resources to keep and re-use. Funding is available for 30 sessions which must be delivered before the end of 2014 and nine sessions have already been booked. These sessions can be designed to suit each school's needs and can be delivered to three or more staff/governors at a time and date to suit the school.

For more information contact Claire Thornber.

Big Lottery Financial Capability Project

FAAD has secured funding from the Big Lottery to deliver Financial Inclusion Awareness Training and Financial Capability Training across Derbyshire over the next three years. FAAD would like to raise awareness among frontline workers and volunteers of the range of local services and agencies available to support people at risk of financial exclusion and improve joined up working between them. Claire Thornber will be developing a series of district based training and networking sessions and invites you to register your interest if you would like to promote your services or think you, your staff or volunteers would benefit from attending.

The funding will also support FAAD to work with those individuals who are finding it difficult to make ends meet and improve their confidence to manage their money, balance their budgets and prevent unmanageable debt. Training will be delivered to identified 'vulnerable groups' and Claire has already begun to make contacts with Adult Education, Multi Agency Teams, Probation and the Voluntary Sector. If you are already working with a group of people who would benefit from this kind of training please get in touch with her to discuss your requirements.

Groundwork UK launch financial education tool

Skint! is an interactive and engaging financial education tool for young people aged 16-to-26 years old.

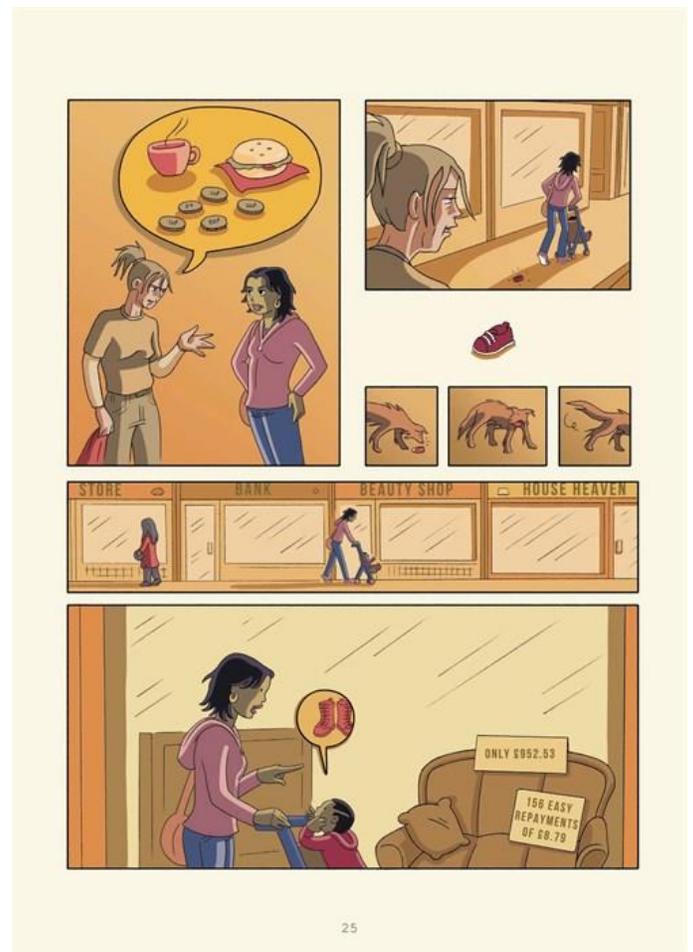
It consists of two illustrated storylines that explore issues around money management such as

attitudes towards money, consumerism, employability, and goal setting. In addition to helping develop financial capability *Skint!* also engages reluctant readers to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Groundwork are offering a limited number of free places on one day facilitator trainings in Derby (26th or 27th June. As part of the training facilitators will receive copies of *Skint!* and interactive resources free of charge. The training supports facilitators to use *Skint!* in groups and one to one settings. It also provides basic information about delivering financial education, and support in using the resources developed for *Skint!*

Please visit

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/skint/event/Category/skint-training> to book your place.



Stop Loan Sharks

The Stop Loan Sharks project have launched an online quiz, to give one lucky person the chance to win £100 of shopping vouchers. Two runners up will each receive a goody bag. It will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. To have a chance of winning the prize please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IMLTchallenge>. Please pass this on to your clients and contacts.

Child Poverty

One of the important roles that FAAD can play is ensuring that the views of Derbyshire partners are fed into national consultations and inquiries.

The Policy and Partnerships Manager recently developed a response to the Department for Education's consultation on its Child Poverty Strategy for 2014-17. There was very little time to prepare the response and in an ideal world I would have preferred to have time to consult with partners before submitting our response. However, by referring to documents we have collated to respond to the issues I hope I have presented a fair picture of our views. Overall I felt that the strategy focused too much on tackling worklessness as the root cause of child poverty and not enough attention paid to reducing the cost of living, improving insecure, low paid and low skilled jobs and improving child care.

[to read our response click here](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have responded critically by challenging the coalition government's record on tackling child poverty and how its current plans on welfare reform will plunge more children into poverty not less. It is highly critical of the lack of outcomes by which progress can be measured and the lack of a comprehensive approach across a range of policy domains. There are some interesting ideas which resonate with recent discussions around the developing Derbyshire Anti-Poverty Strategy.

- Encouraging employers to pay a Living Wage
- Using public procurement to target recruitment and training towards disadvantaged people

- Addressing the "poverty premium" which can add up to 10% to the cost of goods and services for low income families eg energy, banking.

[JRF response to Child Poverty Strategy consultation](#)

All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty

FAAD has prepared a draft response on behalf of the Derbyshire Food Bank Forum. The call for evidence closes 30 June and I would welcome partners' views on the draft no later than close of play on Wednesday 25 June.

[draft response from FAAD](#)

If you need to know where the nearest food bank is then the information on the Advice Derbyshire website is currently being maintained and kept up to date by Food Bank members.

<http://www.advisederbyshire.org/foodbanks.asp>

Research Update

Looking beyond the financial impact of debt

A new Demos report highlights the impact of spiraling household debt from a bottom up approach – recognizing that not everyone's experience of debt is the same.

The report argues that the political narrative around debt is flawed because it sees debt as a financial issue which can be tackled through regulation of credit and by making debt more affordable. Debt should be seen as a social and emotional issue which can cause significant harm to individuals. The report attempts to identify indicators that debt can have and create a "harm index".

The research identified that some types of debt are much higher on the harm index because of their perceived impact on harm factors such as legal consequences, marital stability, affordability, mental wellbeing and debt collection methods. When these impacts are considered, people surveyed ranked illegal loans as the most problematic followed by payday loans, council tax arrears, rent arrears and utility bills. However, most debt advice would be to deal with paying off priority debts first such as the rent, utility and council tax bills first. However, the client might have a different view of importance based upon the stress and shame caused by so-called non-priority debts; letters may be mounting up, debt collectors may be knocking on the door, and the client may be experiencing threatening phone calls several times a day.

The research goes on to highlight a range of developments in the debt advice sector and makes four recommendations:

1. Change the official measure of debt to include arrears on housing and utilities.
2. Mitigate the impact of some forms of debt giving borrowers more rights to negotiate directly with creditors.
3. Public campaigns should aim to reduce the stigma associated with being in debt to encourage people to seek help earlier.
4. Debt advice organisations to adopt a personalised approach to support.

The full report can be found here

<http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/borrowers>

Contacts

Bev Parker, Policy & Partnerships Manager
07833 983 656 or 01629 821929 (direct)
b.parker@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Claire Thornber, Project Assistant
Email c.thornber@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk
Tel 01629 824797 extension 20