



Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre

Newsletter 1 Q3 2019

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

As we celebrate the first anniversary of the Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre (SCDC) we are delighted to bring you our first newsletter. As a supporter of SCDC we hope that you will appreciate what will become a regular update. If you have any news you would like share on in the newsletter, please send it to newsletterscdc@gmail.com

In our first year, Kirsty (the Debt Centre Manager) has met with 18 clients and 10 of these have fully engaged with CAP process and are moving toward being debt free, one of them is very close. We thank God for the ways in which He has enabled us to meet with these people and given them hope.

We now have 15 Befrienders, several are already building relationships with our clients and helping them along the way. This is a key role and we are very keen to be in a position where we can place a Befriender with every new client before they sign up to their budget. Training is provided – simply an evening watching a video and learning the role of a befriender. We are in particular need of Befrienders in the north of the area, towards Halesworth. perhaps this is something you could do to practically support the work of SCDC? If so, please contact Chris – chriscotton@capuk.org or on 07497423171.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

With Kirsty's wonderful news that she is expecting her first child, we rejoice with her and her husband, Andrew as they prepare for the birth and the new and exciting challenges it will bring.

Kirsty's absence whilst on maternity leave has prompted us to open up new possibilities and we are delighted that Chris Cotton has now trained as a Debt Coach. This has enabled the Centre to open again for new clients, following a very short time of closure during which Kirsty met with existing clients, bringing them to a point of full engagement with CAP, and Chris went for his training. When Kirsty returns from her maternity leave in May, we will be able support even more people who are tied down in a cycle of unmanaged debt.

PRAYER

While Chris was being trained, a prayer group was set up on Whatsapp. Chris was able to share immediate news and prayer requests with the group and he later reported that this was a great comfort to him.

The group is up and running and, if you would like to join, simply e-mail newsletterscdc@gmail.com – include your mobile no. If you don't already have Whatsapp, it is free and very easy to set up.



OUR NEW DEBT COACH REPORTS ...

This is to let you all know the state of play regarding my role with CAP. First let me say a big thank you for the many prayers and messages I have received from our church family. It was a real support to hear my phone pinging while struggling with some IT / finance information. In brief after a one day selection process and a total of five days of intense tuition I have passed and I am now a qualified debt centre coach with CAP.

My first client has already been booked in and I now prepare to go live!!! Although I say I have passed and I am now a CAP coach the training does not end yet if ever. More on-line learning with tests are to follow as well as role play exercises before each home visit. I have a supportive Area Manager who has learnt a lot about patience recently and prays for me incessantly. With your help I hope to hold the fort while Kirsty is away on maternity leave. We need more Befrienders, more prayer, more people involved here in Saxmundham and across our CAP area. I am happy to chat with you personally about CAP if you would like, don't be shy I don't bite.....often!

So finally, our church took on this work of Christians Against Poverty and we have an obligation to past, present and future clients to show the love of Christ in a practical way . To fight the darkness of oppressive debt which manifests itself in depression and lack of self-esteem or worth.

My thanks and God's blessing on you all

CLIENT EVENT

We recently held a Client Event which was a wonderful opportunity to meet with clients and get to know them a bit better. These events are a real blessing to our clients, giving them a chance to really understand that they do not stand alone and to engage with others who are on a similar journey to their own.

We heard from Chris, speaking about his new role as Debt Coach and emphasising the importance of teamwork and giving thanks for team which will be supporting him. Geoffrey Boulton, one of the Befrienders, used a reading from Deuteronomy 15 to remind us of our calling and the importance of supporting those in need.

Kirsty spoke of the privilege it is to be invited into people's homes to help them in a time of vulnerability and need. It is recognised what a huge step our clients take when they pick up the phone to call CAP and ask for help, we admire their courage.

One of the clients wanted to speak about her own experience and to give thanks for the work that CAP does. *"I just couldn't face the paperwork and to have someone say to me that they would take care of it, was such a tremendous release. I hope to be debt free within a few months."*

YOUR SUPPORT

There are many different ways to support CAP generally and SCDC locally – financial support is always welcome, prayer support is crucial, we have mentioned our need for befrienders, as well as people in churches willing to 'fly the flag' for CAP.

Please do contact Chris if any of these 'rock your boat'

ADDITIONAL HELP

Working in the background, Doug Fletcher will shortly be enrolled to give service support to SCDC. It is hoped that this will take some pressure off Chris during Kirsty's maternity leave.

CONTACT DETAILS

To request financial advice, contact CAP via their website: capuk.org or by calling 0800 328 0006

The SCDC Debt Coach: Chris on chriscotton@capuk.org or on 07497423171.

The newsletter editor: newsletterscdc@gmail.com

Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre is managed by St John the Baptist Church of England, Saxmundham and is supported by churches in the neighbourhood.

If you, or your church, would like to be involved please contact Chris Cotton in the first instance.