

# MANAGING YOUR MONEY



## HELPING YOU TO HELP YOURSELF

## MAKE IT GO FURTHER!

Many people now have less money in their pockets. The following advice can help you make your money go further and help you better manage your finances.

### TAKE CONTROL OF MANAGING YOUR MONEY BY FOLLOWING THESE SIX STEPS:

**STEP 1: work out your budget.** Make a list of your household's income and expenditure. When you've added up all the figures, you'll see if you have any money left over to pay your debts. You may also be able to see if you can make some savings.

**STEP 2: consider changes you could make to reduce the amount of money you need to spend.** Things to consider could be your energy suppliers, insurance comparisons. If you smoke could you seek help to stop? If you have a satellite package is it a necessity?

**STEP 3: sort out your priority debts.** When you've worked out how much you have left over after paying your expenses, contact each of your priority creditors. Show them your budget and try to make an arrangement to pay back what you owe.

**STEP 4: sort out your non-priority debts.** This will depend on whether you have any money left over from dealing with your priority debts and paying for essential household expenses like housing costs and food.

**STEP 5: stick to your budget.** It is important that you start working on a plan and then stick to it. It takes discipline, but is worth it.

**STEP 6: making these changes is not easy or clear.** Therefore if you need help or support in overcoming these difficult issues please seek help, there are a number of organisations out there that provide support. We have listed a number overleaf.

If you would like help and advice with your budget contact the Welfare Team on **0208 667 8250**.

Make sure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to; phone **0800 731 5920**.

### HANDY TIPS TO HELP YOU

The **Money Advice Service** provides comprehensive advice and support for managing your money and helping you to make sure that you're getting the right entitlements. You can contact The Money Advice Service on **0300 500 5000**, Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, and Saturday, 9am to 1pm.

Visit: [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

### SAVING MONEY

Get handy tips to help you get the best deals for gas and electricity and explain how you can cut down on costs. Read our 'Saving energy' fact sheet. It can be downloaded at [www.croydon.gov.uk/welfare-helpyourself](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/welfare-helpyourself)

### DEBT ADVICE

If you have a problem with debt, it's important not to panic but don't ignore it either - it won't go away! Read our 'Managing debt' fact sheet. It can be downloaded at [www.croydon.gov.uk/welfare-helpyourself](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/welfare-helpyourself)

# HELP AND ADVICE

## PLACES IN CROYDON

### Age UK Croydon (for over 50s)

☎ 020 8680 5450

🌐 [www.ageconcerncroydon.org.uk](http://www.ageconcerncroydon.org.uk)

### Citizens Advice Bureau: Addington

☎ 01689 846890

Minicom: 01689 846927

🌐 [www.croydoncab.org.uk](http://www.croydoncab.org.uk)

### Citizens Advice Bureau: South Norwood

☎ 020 8684 2236

🌐 [www.croydoncab.org.uk](http://www.croydoncab.org.uk) for details.

### Citizens Advice Bureau: Access Croydon

Bernard Weatherill House 8 Mint Walk  
Croydon CR0 1EA.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10 a.m - 4 p.m.

### Croydon Law Centre (part of South West London Law Centres)

☎ 020 8667 9226

🌐 [www.swllc.org](http://www.swllc.org)

### Croydon, Merton & Sutton Credit Union

Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk,  
Croydon CR0 1EA

🌐 [CU-info@cmscu.co.uk](mailto:CU-info@cmscu.co.uk)

☎ 020 8760 5711

## NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Christians Against Poverty (Cap)

National debt-counselling charity with 205 centres in local churches. Cap offers hope and solutions to anyone in debt through its unique, in-depth service.

☎ 01274 760720

🌐 [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

### Consumer Credit Counselling Service

☎ 0800 138 1111

🌐 [www.cccs.co.uk](http://www.cccs.co.uk)

### Money a+e

Provides information about services to contact for finance and benefit advice.

🌐 [www.moneyaande.co.uk](http://www.moneyaande.co.uk)

### Money saving expert

Advice on the best shopping deals, utility bills and special offers.

🌐 [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

### National Debtline

☎ 0808 808 4000

🌐 [www.nationaldebtline.co.uk](http://www.nationaldebtline.co.uk)

### Payplan

Freephone: ☎ 0800 716 239

🌐 [www.payplan.com](http://www.payplan.com)

### Turn2us

Welfare benefits and grants information

☎ 0808 802 2000

Lines open Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm.

🌐 [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)