

Research and Campaigns Management Report: Q2 – 2022 - 23

Report by: Paul Clark

Date: 28th October 2022

Research and Campaigns CAMV Staffing

Christine Dixon – R&C Trustee

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Update on Cost of Living (CoL) Crisis

As you will all be aware Tim, Debbie and Paul met Sir Paul Beresford MP in July, unfortunately this was at the beginning of the Conservative Parties Leadership Election campaign and it had already been decided by the current Government of the time that no policy announcements would be made until a new leader was put in place.

Sir Paul did discuss the current plans where everyone will receive £400 of their energy bills from October and more financial help for people on low incomes and claiming a disability benefit. It was pointed out by Paul that the extra money will help but members of our community are still struggling to meet their basic financial commitments.

We also discussed funding and Sir Paul said he would ask his local contacts in the business world to see if any extra funds would be available.

We also recently wrote again to Sir Paul on the why benefits should rise with inflation. A recent briefing from Citizens Advice can be found here https://public.flourish.studio/story/1707826/?mc_cid=735360bba6&mc_eid=2496a7e536

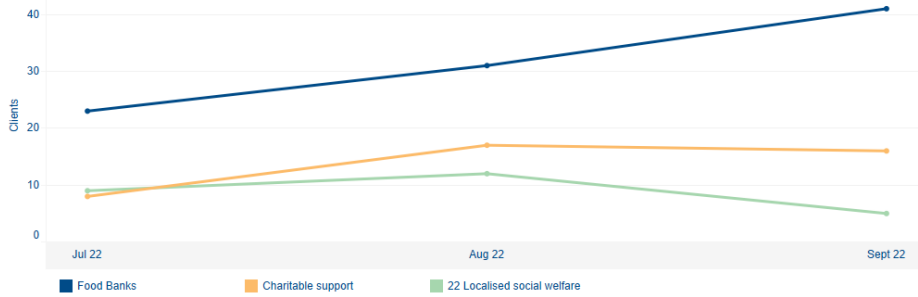
Debbie and Paul also met the newly appointed Director of Business Operations for Mount Pleasant Housing Association where Paul discussed our Carpet Campaign which he seemed fully onboard with and discussed how the Housing Association will be treating their tenants who simply can not afford their rent due to the CoL crisis. It was hinted that they would be sympathetic for those tenants who simply cannot pay rather than those who will not pay. It was also mentioned that they do have a fund to help people struggling.

It has been difficult over the summer months to predict what the impact of CoL crisis is having on the community without a clear message from Central Government on what help will be given to those in need. Paul has been attending regular CoL briefings held by CA.

The Government's Cost of Living payment for those on Universal Credit, legacy benefits and Pension Credit of £650 paid in 2 instalments one over the summer has had some impact but you will see from the chart below there is still an increase of clients requesting food vouchers.

4) Crisis Support & Food bank profiles

Crisis Support



Food Banks Profile



Filters

Date
01/07/2022 00:00:00 to 30/0..

Government Region
South East

Member
Citizens Advice Mole Valley..

Local Authority
All

Funder
All

Demographics Profiles

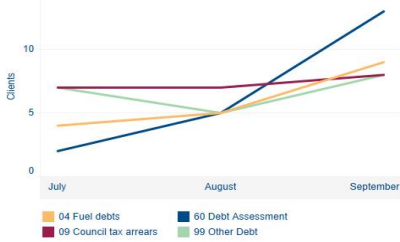
- All
- Age
- Disability LTH
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Housing Tenure
- Household Type

Note: Totals may vary across these charts as the same demographic information is not disclosed for all people we help

If we look at specific debts below we can see that clients coming into see us about fuel debts is steadily increasing – this is a mirror image of what is happening across the country.

3b) Specific debts

Debt



Fuel CoL issues



Filters

Date
01/07/2022 00:00:00 to 30/0..

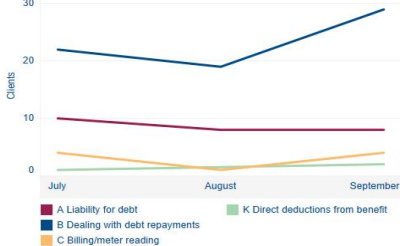
Government Region
South East

Member
Citizens Advice Mole Valley..

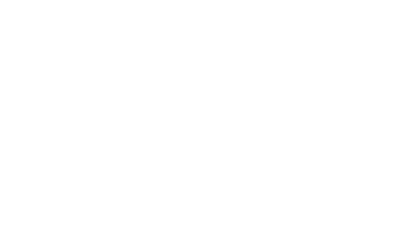
Local Authority
All

Funder
All

Fuel Debt P3



PPM Fitted for arrears



Local Issues

We are still continuing with our campaign concerning the removal of carpets at the end of tenancy in Housing Association/Council properties. I had written to CA on two occasions but they did not get back to me. However, there has been a few LCAs across the country who have also been campaigning on similar lines and Paul will be attending a meeting on November 18th to see how we can go forward.

Surrey R&C Team

We have had two Surrey meetings since the last report and happy to report that more Surrey LCAs are sending representatives. We are not surprisingly concentrating on the CoL crisis which has been covered above.

Evidence forms

Only 2 Evidence Forms were submitted this quarter by 2 of our Caseworkers, which is disappointing. I had asked the Deputy Managers to give our advisers a gentle nudge and remind them that R&C is very important and believe they have brought this up in the Team Meetings.

No new national or local calls for evidence has been requested tis quarter.