

City of York Council - funding for York Citizens Advice Bureau

Because of the economic difficulties, more and more people have been seeking help from York Citizens Advice Bureau. In 2009, the service helped 3663 resident of York, mainly with debt, benefits, employment and housing problems. Over the last twelve months alone, our specialist debt team has been able to see 485 clients with total debts approaching 10 million pounds.

In January, the Government announced that they would end the funding for this specialist debt work and it looked as if City of York council would cut the core grant to the CAB by up to 13%. This would have meant ending our specialist debt service and restricting the number of people we could help with our general advice service. The government have stated that they will now provide some funding for the specialist Debt service, but it is not clear how much York will receive.

York CAB faces other restrictions on its income (ending of other projects, inflation and the fact we already have a deficit budget), but with significant internal savings and some money for debt from the government, a decision by CYC to maintain the core grant and give a one-off contribution to help with debt work would mean:

1. We could maintain our Specialist Debt Service to York residents;
and
2. We could retain the generalist service, at least at the current level

Annex 3

We would use the one-off contribution for debt advice to train up more volunteers in order that we could provide more assistance to York residents over what we know will be a very difficult year. The combination of a paid Specialist Debt Advisor, with volunteers who the specialist would train and supervise, would mean we could assist even more people for the same money but ensure a quality service. The volunteers would continue to assist clients after this funding has ended.

York CAB

15 Feb 2011