

Money Skills and Debt Advice

If you are struggling to pay your rent or mortgage as a result of other debts or money worries Money Skills can work with you on a one to one basis to give you free, confidential, impartial debt / money advice; and help you to:

- Maximise your income
- Minimise your expenditure
- Identify the most important debts and take appropriate action
- Help plan your weekly or monthly budget
- Draw up a financial statement by looking at your income and outgoings
- Help you to decide on a plan to deal with your debts
- Negotiate with the people you owe money to
- Understand court procedures, reply to court documents and represent you in court if appropriate

Prioritising debts

All debts are important, but some have priority over others, and you should always try to pay those first. These include rent and mortgage payments. The following list shows what may happen if certain debts are not dealt with:

- Mortgage - repossession of your home; eviction
- Second mortgage/secured loan - repossession of your home; eviction
- Rent – eviction
- Council tax - seizure of goods by enforcement agents (bailiffs) ; deductions from wages/benefits; imprisonment
- Gas/electricity - supply disconnected
- TV Licence –Magistrates court fine
- Unpaid Magistrates Court fine - seizure of goods by enforcement agents (bailiffs) deductions from wages/benefit); imprisonment
- Unpaid maintenance/child support - seizure of goods by enforcement agents (bailiffs) deductions from wages/benefit; imprisonment
- Income tax/VAT/National Insurance - seizure of goods by enforcement agents (bailiffs) bankruptcy
- Telephone – disconnection
- Hire purchase or conditional sale agreements - repossession of goods
- Water rates – referred to a debt collection agency; County Court judgement
- Unsecured credit card debts - impaired credit rating; referred to a debt collection agency; County Court judgement

Budgeting and energy advice

Money Skills can also work with you on a one to one basis to help you budget, provide you with energy advice and help you to find a cheaper tariff.

Group sessions

Money Skills also run free group sessions based on various financial themes, helping people to become more aware; thus enabling them to make better informed financial choices.



For debt/money advice contact 01204 332916 or email moneyadvice@bolton.gov.uk

For budgeting, energy advice and group sessions contact 01204 331968 or email moneyskills@bolton.gov.uk