

ST ANDREWS DEBT ADVICE

Since March of this year we have been operating a debt advice centre in partnership with CHAT. This has been taking place at the Community Centre on Friday mornings. The Centre is managed (free of charge) by fully trained debt councillors provided by CHAT.

5 volunteers from St Andrews have completed up to level 2 of the "Community Money Advice" (CMA) course for debt advisers. Their training is ongoing. The cost of this training is born by CHAT. Unfortunately, due to pressure of full time work, 2 of these volunteers have had to suspend their activities for the time being. We urgently need more volunteers to take on the role.

Since March over 50 individuals have been in touch seeking help.. There have been 34 face to face sessions helping and supporting clients. Some of these cases have now reached a satisfactory conclusion. There is of course a growing waiting list of people seeking help.

In January, now that more "*Responsible Persons*" have been trained in the care of the CCC It is hoped to extend Friday sessions into the afternoons

Ali Padfield, CHAT CEO, is due to attend our Sunday services at the end of this month. We are hoping this will be an opportunity for the Church family to learn more of, and get behind, this life changing work.

Bob Hooper

8th November 2021