



PRESS RELEASE

Citizens Advice Bureaux in Surrey form a new consortium - Citizens Advice Surrey

Twelve Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABx) across Surrey have joined forces today to launch Citizens Advice Surrey. This is in recognition that by working more closely together more can be done to improve the lives of people throughout Surrey, through delivering advice services county-wide, improving efficiency, and working more closely with other voluntary and statutory organisations throughout the county. Members of Citizens Advice Surrey will provide advice services from 37 locations across the County with over 900 fully trained volunteers.

Norma Corkish, Chair of Citizens Advice Surrey, said "CAB services are essential for reducing social isolation, child poverty and ill-health through helping people find solutions to problems such as unemployment, domestic abuse, unmanageable debt or homelessness. Whilst an affluent county, Surrey has significant pockets of deprivation with social problems as great as any nationally but which tend to be masked by the county statistics. In these difficult economic times, CAB services are even more likely to be needed, but many individual bureaux are themselves facing difficult times with reductions in their local authority funding. The launch of Citizens Advice Surrey recognises both these things and that the best way to continue to meet the needs of its communities is to look county-wide, whilst continuing to provide services to local communities."

The formation of the consortium, Citizens Advice Surrey, will provide the structure to help member bureaux share with each other what they do best, to find ways to retain advice services throughout the county and develop new partnerships to respond to unmet need.

For further information contact:

Norma Corkish, Chair, or Peter Souster, Vice Chair, Citizens Advice Surrey at citizensadvicesurrey@cabnet.org.uk. General information about the consortium and its member CABx is available on our website at www.citizensadvicesurrey.org.uk

Additional Information:

The Citizens Advice service provides free, confidential and impartial advice to help people resolve their problems. As the UK's largest advice provider, the service is equipped to deal with any issue, from anyone, spanning debt and employment to housing and immigration and everything in between. Later this year it will be taking on consumer issues.

Individual CABx in Surrey run a number of projects to provide in-depth support to some of the most vulnerable people such as those at risk of homelessness, those unable to pay fuel bills, older people living on tight budgets, people with chronic health problems and people in prison.

The members of Citizens Advice Surrey provide advice through face-to-face meetings, phone and email services, and online via www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Citizens Advice Surrey is currently developing funding applications for advice projects for people with life-limiting or chronic illnesses and for older people throughout Surrey.

Each CAB is reliant on funding to cover the costs of its premises, training, paid management and specialist project staff and other essential running costs, but none of them could operate without the hundreds of local people who give up some of their free time to volunteer as advisers, receptionists, administrators and trustees.

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