

600 tenants benefit from Ashfield Homes Ltd's Money Management Advice Service

In 2005/06 over 600 current and potential Ashfield District Council tenants have benefited from Ashfield Homes Ltd's brand new Money Management Advice Service.

This newly created flexible, free service aims to provide comprehensive Money Management and Welfare Benefits advice to help people maintain their tenancies with Ashfield District Council and maximise their income. This can include:

- Advising on the affordability of Council housing;
- Reaching affordable agreements to pay rent arrears;
- Providing budgeting advice and tips on how to manage money effectively;
- Advising on debts from credit cards, loans and hire purchase, to utility bills;
- Providing Welfare Benefits advice;
- Advising on payment methods such as Direct Debit or cash payments;
- Signposting to other organisations who can provide specialist help.

The Money Management Advisor has helped tenants make new claims for Housing and Council Tax benefit for people who were unaware that they were entitled to receive these benefits; has assisted with successful applications for grants, such as Sure Start Maternity Grants totalling over £3000, and has helped make applications for Tax and Pension Credit benefits which have resulted in an average weekly increase in income of £61.20.

People who have received help from the Money Management Advisor said:

“Without the help of our Money Management Advisor we wouldn't have known which way to turn and could have ended up in serious financial difficulty”
Hucknall tenant

“I was told about the Money Management Advisor when I was finding it hard to pay my rent and had got into arrears. The advisor visited me at home and helped me sort out my money. She helped me claim Working Tax Credit and helped me work out a budget. I can now afford to pay a little off my debts every week and still have enough money to live on. It's hard to keep to my budget but now I understand my situation and hope I will be free of debt in the future”
Kirkby In Ashfield tenant

“I was very grateful for the help, advice and support the Money Management Advisor gave us”
Hucknall tenant

There has been a higher than expected demand for the Money Management Advice Service, therefore a priority system has been developed. The following groups will now receive priority for the service:

- People who have been served with a Notice Seeking Possession, Notice to Quit or Notice to Terminate their Tenancy;
- People who owe rent arrears;
- People who are facing legal action because of rent arrears;
- People who require Welfare Benefit advice.

The Money Management Advisor holds regular drop-in surgeries at or Property Shops, or can arrange to visit you in your own home. For more information or to arrange an appointment speak to your Care Co-ordinator or Tenancy Support Officer, or please contact Jane Woodward, Money Management Advisor on 01623 608910 and benefit from our advice today