



PROJECT REVIEW

This review presents a summary of the activity taking place to implement the Connecting Advice in Dorset project. This two year project will run to the end of November 2015. For an overview, download the Key Facts from our website: www.advisedorset.org.uk.

Purpose of Project: To develop and strengthen an integrated network of advice agencies in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole areas, enabling providers to deliver a more efficient and comprehensive service to clients.

PROJECT LEGACY & EVALUATION

It is hard to believe that the end of our two year project is fast approaching but it is good to look back and see how much we have done. We are currently appointing an independent consultant to carry out an evaluation of the project – looking at what we have achieved but also acknowledging the areas where we have not been so successful. The final report will be shared with the local advice sector.



We are also looking at ways to continue providing key elements of the project such as the e-bulletin, forums, conferences and networking and the provision of free/low cost training – look out for your opportunity to feed into this research.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Our new project website www.AdviceDorset.org.uk is up and running and attracted over 1000 individual users in the first month alone. You can use the website to find organisations providing advice and support in social welfare law in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

We are also supporting Citizens Advice in Dorset and the 9 local Citizens Advice to develop a joint website with information about each individual organisation, as well as online advice. Look out for the website launch towards the end of September.



FINANCIAL CAPABILITY IN DORSET

As part of our programme of consultancy and research, the project commissioned some work to look at the provision of financial capability services in the local area. Our researcher surveyed a number of organisations to find out what they provided, in what way and who for, and identified a number of gaps and overlaps across the local area.

Look out for information about our Financial Capability Forum, meeting on the 5th November, where we will discuss findings from the report.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Our fourth Connecting Advice in Dorset conference 'Specialist Advice in Dorset' will take place on Thursday 1st October 2015 in Dorchester.

More details can be found on our [website](#) or contact us for an agenda and booking form.

The next Welfare Benefits Forum will be on Wednesday 18th November 2015 in Dorchester. This meeting will review the implementation of Universal Credit in the local area, and also look at the changes to welfare benefits announced in the summer budget 2015. Look out for more information and booking details.

LOCAL ADVICE NETWORKS

Our eight Local Advice Networks will continue to meet after the end of the project. These are a good way to get to know the organisations working in your area, and to work effectively and efficiently together. To join a Network, contact the chair – you can find their details on our [website](#).

FOCUS ON TRAINING

Over the last two years, we have successfully delivered a programme of free training to organisations delivering advice and support. We have provided almost 100 courses to over 400 delegates covering a range of topics from Lone Working and Mental Health Awareness to very specific subject-based courses on PIP and Homelessness.

We still have a few more courses to run – contact caid@shelter.org.uk if you want to join the circulation list.

THANK YOU!



As we approach the end of the project, we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has supported us – it has been really rewarding to see how bringing organisations together can be so productive.

A special thank you to our 12 partners – Ansbury, Dorset Race Equality Council, Shelter and the 9 local Citizens Advice, and to Dorset County Council without whom the project would have not have got off the ground.

CONTACT US

To find out more information about the project, sign up to the e-bulletin, get involved in your Local Advice Network or access the training programme, please contact:

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