

		
Tel: 0207 391 4583	Email: unaf@cccs.co.uk	Website: www.cccs.co.uk

February 11 2010

Debt charity offers free help with fuel debt

Ahead of Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on February 12 2010, Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), the UK's leading debt charity, is urging people who are worried about paying their fuel bills to call its helpline for free advice and help with budgeting.

The charity is concerned that rising utility costs coupled with the recent cold spell will leave many more unable to pay their heating bills.

Commenting on the increase, Laura Carver, CCCS helpline manager, says:

“Fuel debt is a serious and growing problem. We are seeing increasing numbers of people coming to us for help with their fuel debts.

“Fuel bills are a priority debt and not paying them can result in having your gas and electricity cut off.

“But the fear of being unable to pay your fuel bill is equally serious as people struggling with debt may avoid turning on the heating for fear of a large fuel bill that they cannot pay.”

The CCCS free-phone helpline (0800 138 1111) is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

- ends -

Media enquiries:

Frances Walker

francesw@cccs.co.uk

0207 391 4587

Tom Howard

tomh@cccs.co.uk
0207 391 4581

Notes for editors:

1. CCCS operates *Debt Remedy*, an online counselling service available round the clock at www.cccs.co.uk for those who prefer an anonymous option.
2. CCCS's ethos is to help the "can't pays", not the "won't pays", and does not condone debt avoidance. CCCS always aims to help its clients pay back what they owe, in a realistic timescale and manner that is suited to each individual's situation.
3. CCCS is self-funding. Lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them. This allows CCCS to retain its independence and ensure that its advice is always in the best interest of the client. CCCS aims to separate the "can't pays" from the "won't pays".

February 11 2010