

Mental Health News

Credit crunch helpline to be launched

The Mental Health News e-bulletin is a daily bulletin issued by the Mental Health Improvement Programme (MHIP) containing an item relating to a Mental Health issue, development or outcome in the North West.

The aim is to bring awareness to our stakeholders about service improvement and innovative projects underway in Mental Health across the North West, and to encourage you (the reader) to act as vehicle for ensuring that you or your organisation is engaged with the work where applicable.

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Manchester-based Anxiety UK is launching a credit crunch crisis helpline to help Manchester residents who are being affected by the recession. The helpline, due to be launched late October, comes after the charity had a 400% surge in emails and double the amount of calls from people suffering from increased anxiety and stress because of the recession. The helpline will have trained volunteers who have experience of anxiety on standby, and an independent financial advisor will also be available to offer expert advice to those needing it.

The funding for the helpline comes through a £10,000 award from the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester's Targeted Support Fund, funded by the Cabinet Office's Office of the Third Sector. The fund was launched to help third-sector organisations experiencing a higher demand for services because of the recession gain much-needed additional support.

Service and Awareness Manager for Anxiety UK, Catherine O'Neill, said "The money from the Community Foundation and the helpline will help those who feel there's no-one to turn to during the economic downturn. Manchester has one of the highest deprivation levels in the country and it has been identified as an area where extra support is needed. As a locally based charity Anxiety UK knows the impact the recession can have on the community around us and is striving to make its services accessible to those in most need of help." She added that it will also help ease the burden on the charity, which is still recovering from a funding gap earlier in the year that placed severe financial strain on the charity.

Look out for the official helpline launch date on Anxiety UK's website www.anxietyuk.org.uk

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