

News release: For immediate release

Food Crisis Looming for Those in Debt Warns Charity

Christians Against Poverty sees fewer eating properly because of debts

A leading debt counselling charity today warned of an impending food crisis for those in financial difficulty as the UK continues to struggle with spiralling food costs and economic gloom.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has seen a marked increase in those approaching the charity for help who are struggling to afford food and are missing meals and not eating properly as a result.

Traditionally, the charity had seen over two thirds (67 per cent) of clients missing a meal to make debt repayments and a further 22 per cent doing so regularly. However, in an alarming development, these figures are now rising.

The charity's newly-launched free-phone switchboard has witnessed a third of potential clients confessing that they weren't eating properly due to insufficient funds, with several callers stating that things had become so bad food had been scarce for over six weeks.

In a shocking example of how hard the financial situation is becoming for many in debt, one caller confessed to surviving for the past two months on tea and toast alone and another on just fish-fingers.

The charity operates through a nationwide network of 72 debt counselling centres which offer practical and sustainable solutions to debt and has recently celebrated helping its 10,000th family.

Kathryn Foster, Operations Director, CAP, said: “Our latest findings are truly shocking and strong evidence that the economic climate is continuing to wreak havoc for those in debt.

“With recent food price rises, people no longer have the necessary funds to afford a balanced diet and we are increasingly concerned that malnutrition will become more commonplace for those in debt.

“However, in spite of this worrying trend, we are pleased that we are able to offer hope and a solution to those in debt. Our free service has helped over 10,000 families escape what is the UK’s greatest social problem and we are confident that we will be able to help many more as personal debt continues to rise.

“If anyone is in need and not eating properly as a result, I would urge them to contact us via our website - www.capuk.org. We work with anyone, whether they are Christian or not and our service is completely free, so please don’t leave it until your cupboards are bare. Contact us now.”

For more information, visit www.capuk.org

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Notes to editors:

For more information about Christians Against Poverty, please contact Jonathan Priestley at the press office on 01274 760833 or jonathanpriestley@capuk.org

Further information

About Christians Against Poverty

CAP aims to show God’s love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP’s unique ‘hands on’ approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. Vital financial and budgeting life skills are developed through our services, thus ensuring poverty relief is sustainable.

The charity operates through a growing network of centres based around the UK, all opened in partnership with a local church. Over the last ten years, the charity has grown from one man working from his home with a donation of £10, to a national charity with 72 centres across the country and an annual turnover of £5 million.

CAP's vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP centre operating in every major town and city by the year 2021.