



South Warwickshire

Newsletter September 2018

Jeremy Vanes, Chief Executive Officer - Citizens Advice South Warwickshire



Hello and welcome to the September newsletter. I'm Jeremy Vanes, the new Chief Executive of CASW and I will have been a month in my new role by the time you read this. And although I'm new to the service in South Warwickshire, this is my third time as a Chief Executive of a Citizens Advice charity.

I am a chartered manager by training and have enjoyed a 30 year career in social welfare, legal advice and NHS governance, working in both the public and voluntary sectors.

It was very foresighted to have merged the Citizens Advice services of Stratford District and Warwick district and I'm keen to focus on further consolidation. We need to work more closely with our partners in South Warwickshire and explore new partnerships in social welfare and legal advice.

The long period of economic austerity is still having effects. It has had a big impact on many low income households and cut into public resourcing available for organisations like us who are there to help.

Winter 2018-19 is going to be busy. Citizens Advice expects demand to rise. Mortgage interest rates are edging up, the challenges triggered by Universal Credit arrive in more areas and of course the moment of Brexit could cause uncertainty in several areas that affect our clients.

Our annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th November. I would like this to be an opportunity for us to share our thoughts and look forward to seeing many of you there. Collaboration will be the key to providing better services to the communities of South Warwickshire who need the services of Citizens Advice.



Generous grant from Stratford Town Trust



Citizens Advice South Warwickshire has been awarded a total of £182,750. It's the first time the Trust has given funding for a period of three years to secure the future for the core service.

Beth Nicholson, Marketing and Development Manager for Citizens Advice, said: "As a local charity, this grant means our frontline services are secure for the people of Stratford. We can continue to give our clients a lifeline when they are in difficulties and need help.

"Knowing that this funding is for three years makes a big difference in the current difficult climate. In the Stratford town area alone we supported more than 1,000 people last year. We are so grateful for this grant, which will keep the doors of our main office in Meer Street open and secure the foundations for the other specialist project services we provide for whole of Stratford district."

A spokesperson for Stratford Town Trust, said: "We are proud and committed to support Citizens Advice South Warwickshire. Supporting some of our most key local charities and the significant impact their work has on local people."

Special help for the over 65s in Stratford District



There is now a dedicated advisor in Stratford district who is there to help the over 65s. Spencer Colquitt is providing information, advice and support for those older people who for reasons of infirmity, disability or isolation aren't able to access help from our advice centres.

Spencer said: "It's a more holistic approach to people's problems. I might begin with a check to see that someone is on the right energy tariff, but with their permission, I can then check that they are getting the benefits they need and help with budget advice." Spencer is visiting all the Senior Citizens Action Network groups in the Stratford district to highlight the new service.

If you or someone you know needs Spencer's help you can call on 01789 2977492 or email spencer.colquitt@casouthwarwickshire.org.uk

Financial Inclusion services for Warwick District

In early summer our tender to Warwick District Council was successful and we were awarded the contract to deliver financial advice, advocacy and support services to people in Warwick District.

The three year contract is to deliver an ever increasing focus of support to people living in the Council's priority wards (Brunswick, Crown, Sydenham and West Warwick) and who are eligible for or on benefits, live in priority wards, ex-service personnel, homeless or have a disability or long term health condition or with complex issues.

Our annual general meeting

Please note that our annual general meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th November in the morning at The Court House in Warwick. Further details to follow on our website and Facebook.



Do you have any suggestions or comments on this newsletter? Or, do you want to sign up/unsubscribe from this mailing list? We would love to hear from you, email us at newsletter@casouthwarwickshire.org.uk

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