



# AdviceUK

Benefits of joining

A guide to membership

**advice** UK

# Running an advice project?

We know it can sometimes be a cold, lonely experience. That's why AdviceUK was formed in 1979\* by around 200 pioneer advice agencies. By joining together they hoped to develop mutual support, build a stronger voice and advance the cause of people needing advice.

Today, we continue their work as the UK's largest and most diverse network of independent advice providers.

**If you're not yet a member of a national advice network, why not come in from the cold?**

## Member benefits: what we can do for you

### Supporting members

The main focus of what we do. Our Development Consultants offer expertise including:

- managing an advice service
- developing new funding streams
- commissioning and tendering
- setting up a new service
- strategic planning
- governance
- quality assurance
- collaborative working

New members receive a free support visit and we can offer tailored support on a one-off basis or as part of a funded programme of work. We've consistently raised more than £1m a year in project funding to support such programmes. We've worked with frontline agencies, local authorities and local networks to help develop local advice services.

### Sharing sector knowledge

We run events and promote forums to foster links between organisations and our Development Consultants share information across the country. A range of bulletins keep you up to date with events in the sector, funding opportunities and policy developments.

### Campaigning and policy work

An important role for any umbrella body; we provide a voice for independent advice organisations in speaking to government, policy makers and funders. And, of course, we consult you so that we have evidence to support what we say on your behalf.

### Learning & skills

We offer a range of training courses designed specifically for advice organisations and can run these anywhere in the country subject to demand. We can also provide specialist, bespoke courses for individual organisations on request. Through our own Assessment Centre we offer accreditation of advice sector qualifications and over the past 10 years have helped well over 1,000 employees and volunteers achieve relevant vocational qualifications.

\* As the Federation of Independent Advice Centres

## AdvicePro case management System

The affordable web-based case management system designed to meet both advice agencies' needs and funders' reporting requirements. One commissioning authority recently awarded it maximum scores across all criteria. It offers secure access from any work site combined with excellent case management controls and customisable statistical reporting.

## Money advice support

AdviceUK members were the pioneers of debt advice and debt has been a growing cause of advice demand for many years. We provide specific support from an expert team:

- Information bulletins and alerts
- Free access to the Wiser Adviser training programme and the Specialist Support Unit
- Consumer Credit Licence for members through our OFT Group Scheme
- Debt Relief Order Intermediary approval as a Competent Authority

## Helping resources go further

### Insurances

Our founders made professional indemnity insurance a condition of membership in order to protect clients and soon set up a group scheme in order to make it more affordable for members. We now offer a range of insurances, some through our own insurance company so we have more control over premiums. This has allowed us to drop or freeze premiums in all of the past few years. There are **big** discounts for members which many of them tell us are worth the membership fee alone! Email [insurance@adviceuk.org.uk](mailto:insurance@adviceuk.org.uk) to make an enquiry or request a quote.

### Business Support Helpline

This service, provided to us by specialists Croner, is free to members and covers all aspects of running your organisation including HR, taxation and legal matters.

### [www.jobsinadvice.org.uk](http://www.jobsinadvice.org.uk)

With most recruitment advertising moving on-line we've developed the "jobsinadvice" website. With low rates, we're aiming to make it the default choice for the advice sector.

### Discounted services and supplies

In search of money saving opportunities for members we partner with established providers to deliver group discounts. Right now, we're offering great deals on telecoms through The Phone Co-op – visit [www.thephone.coop/adviceuk](http://www.thephone.coop/adviceuk) or call 0845 458 9070 and quote AdviceUK. You can also get discounted rates on office supplies with leading supplier NetStationers. See our portal at [www.adviceuk.netstationers.co.uk](http://www.adviceuk.netstationers.co.uk)

# Want to find out more?

AdviceUK membership is open to not-for-profit organisations that provide free, independent advice as either all or part of what they do. You must be able to meet our membership requirements but we're determinedly inclusive, not exclusive, in order to embrace the many excellent and innovative advice projects throughout the UK.

If you'd like more information about joining or any of the member benefits in this leaflet you can contact our Membership Team at:

**Email:** [membership@adviceuk.org.uk](mailto:membership@adviceuk.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 0300 777 0107

Or visit our website for more information about membership; for latest news and events affecting members and for information about all our products and services:

[www.adviceuk.org.uk](http://www.adviceuk.org.uk)

Or contact your local Development Consultant to find out what's happening in your area or to arrange a visit. Details at:

[www.adviceuk.org.uk/local](http://www.adviceuk.org.uk/local)

Get the latest information about the advice sector and what we are up to, follow us on:



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"Adviceuk"



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**Remember:** members get substantial discounts on all our products and services!