

## Press Release

15 MARCH 2022

### Long-serving Chief Executive to leave AdviceUK

AdviceUK has announced that its long-serving Chief Executive, Steve Johnson, will be retiring from the charity at the end of March. He joined the organisation as only its second National Director in 1996.

Chair of Trustees, Baljit Badesha said: "All of us associated with AdviceUK owe Steve a tremendous debt of gratitude. He has consistently taken the organisation forward, including through several difficult periods when so many other infrastructure bodies have closed. Thanks to Steve's leadership we're now a self-sustaining charity able to invest in our systems and services and, most importantly, in engagement with our members to make more of a difference to the lives of people needing advice."

AdviceUK has the largest membership of any of the UK's advice networks. Its diverse members include well-known national and regional organisations as well as many local charities that each provide an independent advice service. It was originally formed in 1979 as the Federation of Independent Advice Centres before re-branding in 2004.

Steve Johnson said: "It's been a privilege to lead this organisation and I am, of course, going to miss it enormously. There've been many challenges along the way, for sure, but I'm proud to be leaving it better equipped than it has ever been to make more of a difference by adding value to the work of our fantastic members and all of the people involved in them.

I'm so pleased to have had the opportunity to work on a smooth handover with my successor, Liz Bayram, and I wish her every success."

Liz Bayram said: "I'm honoured to have the opportunity to lead AdviceUK as its next Chief Executive. I'm looking forward to building on the fantastic support AdviceUK trustees and staff already provide for members. More and more people are living with poverty, so the independent advice sector is dealing with increased demand whilst facing increased financial pressures too. So, my focus will be two-fold. Firstly, to work with colleagues to continue to ensure our support is sustained and responsive to members' needs. Secondly, to ensure AdviceUK remains a strong advocate for members so decision-makers and funders value their vital work and make the changes needed to support our sector to thrive."

**ENDS**

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**Notes for editors: -**

1. AdviceUK is a charity supporting independent organisations that give free advice to members of the public. Established in 1979, with 786 members we are the largest network of independent advice centres in the UK.
2. Our members work in some of the poorest parts of the UK, often with marginalised communities, helping people to solve their legal and social welfare problems.
3. For more information on AdviceUK please visit the AdviceUK website at [www.adviceuk.org.uk](http://www.adviceuk.org.uk)
4. To enquire about membership or participation in any of our extended category schemes or any of the services AdviceUK offers, please contact the AdviceUK membership team on [membership@adviceuk.org.uk](mailto:membership@adviceuk.org.uk)