

CAP – Christians Against Poverty – www.capuk.org

A discussion paper for the West Swindon and the Lydiards Church Partnership Council – April/ May 2012

Proposal – for initial discussion

That as a Partnership seek to offer the CAP Money Course to those in our churches and beyond, and where appropriate to lend support to the clients from the CAP centre at Wroughton Assemblies of God (WAOG) who live in our area. We can also advertise the Debt Advice Service through our churches to help those in need.

Background

CAP was formed 15 yrs ago, by a person who overstretched his resources and wanted to offer help to others after he resolved his own issues. There are now 200 centres in the UK, based in local churches

Dick Gray and Anne Carter met with Geoff Naylor at the end of February to learn more about the work of CAP. Geoff is a member at WAOG, and the coordinator of the CAP Debt Advice service that is supported by that church, I don't want to bore you with full info about CAP here, you can look it up on the website. But during the conversation there were three elements that interested Dick and I and which we subsequently took for discussion to the Staff Team Meeting and it is with their support that I am bringing this suggestion to you.

Areas of Interest

1. Having leaflets in our churches to enable members, friends and community contacts to make their own links with the service where they have need of it
2. Being prepared occasionally to support someone in our area who is undergoing debt advice and counselling from CAP, via WAOG. The person concerned would have no information about the financial situation and no responsibility in this area of the work, but would simply be a 'befriender', since those with debt problems are often isolated and lonely as a result of their life choices.
3. Thirdly and perhaps most interestingly we could run the CAP Money course in our Partnership, for the benefit of our members, but also the wider community. This is CAP's own description of why churches might want to run such a course in their communities.

CAP Money is a fantastic outreach tool that any church can use to impact their community. Many people are feeling the pinch and looking at how to reduce their expenses, meaning money management and budgeting are at the top of their agenda. Through CAP Money, your church can reach out to give people the tools to deal with their finances at this crucial time.

Running CAP Money reflects Jesus' heart as he taught so much about money. As his Church, we should do the same. Money affects so much of what we all do and if it is out of control, it has the power to destroy lives. CAP Money empowers people to give and save more as well as preventing the destructive effects of unmanageable debt.

Commitment (numbers refer to the elements above)

1. For our churches to learn a little about CAP – we could invite a speaker to one of our Partnership Services perhaps, and then have leaflets and pass on recommendations to friends
2. We would ideally need just one or two people who would meet with Geoff to discuss the requirements in more detail and then be on call. They may be used almost immediately or may never be called on.
3. This is the biggest commitment. Ideally we need 2 people who would be prepared to train for running the course. Courses run several times a year at different locations in the country. Once trained these people will have the title of CAP Money Coaches. Training costs just £45 per person.

Training Includes:

- *a full day's training, including lunch and all refreshments*
- *a starter pack of course materials for each new Money Coach (ten Delegate Workbooks, one course DVD, a Money Coach Guide and a selection of posters and flyers)*
- *ongoing email and telephone support and assistance from the CAP Money Team in Bradford*

We also provide further, optional in depth training at each of our regional training days throughout the year for Money Coaches who want to grow their knowledge.

Further info about the training course and the type of people that we would need to look for are on the website at the following address

https://www.capmoney.org/en_GB/runacourse

The CAP Money Course that is done locally for people in church and community, is run over three evenings of two hours each, giving people advice about how to manage their money, a workbook and access to on-line tools. It is DVD and discussion based. Further details of the content of the course are at https://www.capmoney.org/en_GB/whatiscapmoney

Next Steps – one possible way forward:

- **Apr / May** - Discussion at next Standing Committee and PC meeting
- **May – June** - Take to the churches to see who is interested in running the courses
- **July** – finalise decision at PC meeting
- **Autumn** – Consider having a CAP rep at one of our combined services.
- **Autumn** – Potential coaches attend training day – current options are
 - November 10 - Greater London - [Soul Survivor Watford](#)
 - December 1 – Midlands, but they may well add more.
- **Spring 2013** - Launch first course

If you have any questions please get back to me. Specific info is often more readily found before a meeting, rather than me having all the answers in my head.

Anne Carter