



Money Information Network Tameside  
www.mintameside.org.uk



# PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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## Sub-prime lending attacked



### Photographs available

The first financial exclusion conference in Tameside criticised sub-prime lending activity in areas of low incomes. Keynote speaker David Heyes MP used the occasion to mount a stinging attack on the cynical business strategy of firms who provide premium rates of credit attached to supply of household goods. Mr. Heyes used his background of managing a Citizens Advice Bureau as well as his constituency casework to identify targeting of traditionally low wage areas like Tameside.

The "Money matters...and so do you" event took place at Hyde Town Hall. The conference aimed to raise awareness of financial exclusion and over 100 delegates came together to look at solutions. Money Information Network Tameside (MiNT) is an alliance of local organisations which organised the day.

It wasn't all talk. Manchester-based Waters Edge Theatre Company performed a thought-provoking short play about life in debt. And informal workshops got delegates to contribute their ideas to areas as diverse as savings, schoolwork and central heating.

David Burdis, Financial Inclusion Manager is based at New Charter Housing Trust Group, one of the partners in MiNT. He said: "We successfully attracted local residents as well as many advice agencies and service providers. Financial inclusion might be seen as jargon by some, but it's as simple as ABC: Advice, Banking and Credit. We were able to learn more, and stimulate the audience by having some fun along the way."

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter is one of the founding partners of Money Information Network Tameside (MiNT). MiNT is an alliance of local organisations, including the Cashbox Credit Union, Citizens Advice Bureau Tameside, Tame Valley Partnership, Groundwork, Tameside Council and other Registered Social Landlords.
2. MiNT aims to give everyone locally access to all the personal finance information they need, irrespective of age, race or gender. All partners share a vision of giving people the right tools and skills so they can manage their personal finances and avoid the "debt trap".
3. Workshop topics included:
  - Debt advice provision - what suits you best?
  - Why didn't I learn this at school? - practical financial know-how;
  - Pennies and pensions - covering older people's money issues;
  - Affordable warmth - looking at fuel poverty; and
  - Should I save or should I borrow? - promoting credit unions above home credit.
4. The conference was free to residents but with a small charge (of £30 + VAT) for service providers and businesses.
5. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

## CONTACTS:

**David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter 0161 331 2000**

[www.newcharter.co.uk](http://www.newcharter.co.uk)

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**ENDS**



**business for neighbourhoods**