



Money Information Network Tameside  
www.mintameside.org.uk



# PRESS RELEASE

**Immediate release**

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## **Sums mums go back to school**



**Photographs available**

Better budgeting in Stalybridge will be a priority for some local families now an innovative training programme has begun.

The 'Sound as a Pound' course started yesterday (February 21<sup>st</sup>), engaging initially with mums from the Ridge Hill area of Stalybridge. Providers Money Information Network Tameside (MiNT), Ridge Hill Children's Centre and Skills For Life (Adult Learning team at Tameside MBC) combined to give local people better financial management skills. There's even a crèche for the under 5's, so the mums can concentrate.

The free course runs over six weeks and provides attendees with the knowledge and confidence to organise household budgets, spend and borrow wisely...and even how to save for Christmas!

Community Development Worker Sarah Sinclair is based at the newly-opened Ridge Hill Children's Centre. She contacted local households to understand their training needs. "Demand for better personal financial skills dominated responses" she said. "I knew MiNT was interested in providing people with these skills and it seemed a perfect fit to line them up with the Council's Adult Learning team."

Mum Kathryn Townsend was one of the first to enrol. She said: "With my little boy happily playing next door, I was surprised how easily I could follow what the tutors were saying. There's a lot of mums - and dads - round here that could benefit from this course."

David Burdis is Financial Inclusion Manager for MiNT, a post sponsored by New Charter. He said: "This is a great start and our learners today have been enthusiastic and attentive. Like many people, their reaction is often 'why didn't we learn this at school?' We've designed this training to meet what local people want, but in a fun way. I'd like to roll this training out to other areas and improve residents' skills across Tameside. Financial skills are all about A, B, C - Advice, Banking and Credit - so it's appropriate to get this going at a Children's Centre."

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter owns and manages almost 15,000 homes for rent, mainly in Tameside, Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £53million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the North West's largest Registered Social Landlords, and incorporates Aksa Housing Association.
2. Money Information Network Tameside (MiNT) is a multi-agency partnership that looks at why people are excluded from mainstream financial services most of us take for granted, and tries to establish suitable solutions. New Charter and Tameside Council are among the partners. See [www.mintameside.org.uk](http://www.mintameside.org.uk)
3. This week the Financial Services Authority issued a review of information it provides (The Parent's Guide to Money) to help prospective parents review and organise their finances. See [www.fsa.gov.uk/financial\\_capability](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/financial_capability)
4. **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.

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**business for neighbourhoods**