



St Vincent Support Centre is a city-wide voluntary organisation based in the heart of east Leeds.

Its aim is to improve the quality of life for those deprived of income, employment, education, social networks, neighbourhood and community support.

We do this by offering a holistic range of services. Each service has been developed in direct response to demand from our clients and customers since we began in 1996. Alongside our debt, counselling, volunteer programme and education services we offer:

- A friendly community café selling low cost food and beverages
- A low cost shop selling second-hand quality furniture, clothing and electrical items

Our opening hours are

Monday - Friday,

10.00am - 4.00pm

For more information about these services, please contact:

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St Vincent Support Centre is a 'Special Work' of the St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales).
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St Vincent Support Centre



Support services information leaflet

Debt advice service

The debt advice service is a free and confidential service. It offers information, advice and support to clients on a low income, experiencing financial difficulty. The aim is to enable clients to work through their situation and set up a repayment plan. The debt service can negotiate and mediate on a client's behalf and can offer representation where necessary. Face-to-face support will continue until the client feels ready to manage their finances alone.

We also provide debt advice from various outreach locations within the community. This is in recognition that our clients come from all over Leeds. You can contact us for a list of outreach locations.

Clients can self refer or be referred from another agency.

Our debt service has been running for 6 years and is a trusted and respected service. All our debt workers are trained to deal with client's financial issues and do so in the strictest confidence. Our debt service has been awarded the Community Legal Services Quality Mark which demonstrates that we are a quality assured service, working to very high standards.

Clients are seen by appointment only.

Counselling service

The effect of debt can cause so much stress that it leaves a person feeling embarrassed, depressed and unable to discuss this with anyone. Clients who access debt advice are often referred to our counsellors.

Clients may also access the counselling service independently either from another agency or through self referral. The counsellors can help with a range of issues including:

- Relationship issues
- Sexual abuse or rape
- Anxiety or depression
- General unhappiness or dissatisfaction
- Mental health issues

St Vincent Support Centre offers a free or low cost counselling service, depending on a client's income.

Our counselling service has been in operation for 5 years and all the counsellors are appropriately trained and work to a professional standard. The counselling service is a confidential service which adheres to the ethical framework of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Confidentiality

Any information expressed in the debt advice or counselling sessions is kept confidential between the client and the worker. The only exception to this is if there appears to be a risk of serious harm to the client or some other person.

Learning services

St Vincent Support Centre offers free help, education and support for those wanting to improve their numeracy, literacy or computer skills. Our tutor often works closely with debt and counselling clients as a way of building self-esteem and confidence as well as improving maths and money management skills. The learning service also offers free English language lessons. Clients are given an initial assessment so that learning is given at the appropriate level and proper support given.

Anyone can access the service and help is given on a one to one basis in a relaxed environment. Students can also go on to take further study and take exams for recognised qualifications.

The education service is staffed by two professional tutors and has been running for over 3 years.

Volunteering programme

Our volunteering programme offers work skills and experience in a caring, supportive environment. Volunteering opportunities include working in our community shop and café by assisting customers, sorting and pricing donated goods and working on the till. Some of our volunteers are hoping their skills will lead on to paid employment, whilst others simply wish to meet new people and improve their self-esteem.