



Stop Loan Sharks

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S SWIMMING WITH SHARKS?

As part of a programme of activities to implement the Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14 we have organised the events detailed below.

LOAN SHARKS

- Lend money illegally, operating without the licence issued by the Office of Fair Trading to "fit and proper" money lenders.
- Loan sharks are as dangerous and predatory as their name suggests.
- Victims pay huge rates of interest and often face violence if they cannot pay.
- "From a debt of a few hundred pounds I paid back £7,000, leaving me £5 a week to live on. I couldn't pay my bills or eat properly and I became ill..."

Research shows that 6% of households in the most deprived areas may be victims of loan shark activity.

The *Illegal Money Lending Team*, England, work in partnership with the Office of Fair Trading and local Trading Standards to remove loan sharks from local communities. They also offer specialist advice and support to victims. www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks

COME TO AN INFORMATION EVENT (no booking, no charge) **to hear a member of the Illegal Money Lending Team talk about:**

- How loan sharks operate
- How they can be stopped
- How they affect individuals and communities
- How victims can be helped

Wednesday 19 October: AMERSHAM Council Chamber, Chiltern District Council, King George V Road Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5AW

4.00 - 5.30pm and a repeat at 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Thursday 27 October: DENHAM Council Chamber, South Bucks District Council, Capswood, Oxford Road Denham Buckinghamshire UB9 4LH

3.00 - 4.30pm and a repeat at 5.30 - 7.00pm.

Tuesday 15 November: AYLESBURY The Oculus, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF

3.00 - 4.30pm and a repeat at 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Thursday 1 December: HIGH WYCOMBE Council Chamber, Wycombe District Council, Queen Victoria Road High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 1BB

3.30 - 5.00pm and a repeat at 6.00 - 7.30pm.

For more information contact Pam Curtis Child Poverty Programme Manager, Children and Young People's Service, Buckinghamshire County Council.

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You can view the Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy 2011 -14 on

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/partnership/CYPT/Child+Poverty.page>