



Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice

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Dear Council Chair and Clerk

Impact Report and Appeal for Funding

Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice works across South Suffolk 'helping make lives easier' through our advice and expertise – especially now in the face of the cost-of-living crisis.

I am writing to attach our annual Impact Report for the year ending March 2023. It tells the story of our post-pandemic success during the year, returning more than £700,000 to the local economy, an increase of 80% over the previous year. It also shows the high levels of client satisfaction that we have been able sustain, as well as the increase in case complexity that clients present to us. Client numbers show an upward trend from month to month; our committed team of staff and volunteers are working hard to meet their needs.

There are around 7,500 people in income deprivation in the Babergh district – many hidden in rural villages. This number represents around 4,000 households. We know that the cost-of-living crisis has a way to run as the full impact of higher interest rates continues to bite. We also know that we reach less than 40% of these households that might need our advice. We need to do more.

Yet, the environment for funding our excellent service has tightened considerably and we are facing a budget deficit this year of £90,000. Repairing this deficit is now the Board's #1 priority as we cannot sustain that for long.

This letter is to ask two things of your council and local community:

1. Can you please promote our work in your community and refer them to our new website through which they can access our services <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk>. We will happily come and talk to your village meetings about our work and experience – please ask;
2. Please would make a donation to our work? A few hundred £s from across all the villages in the district would go a long way to closing the gap.

We very much hope you can help, and we would be pleased to work more closely with your community.

Thank you and, yours sincerely.

Alan Braithwaite
Chair of the Trustee Board

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