



## **DEALING WITH DEBT**

Being in debt can be stressful. It can be difficult to know what to do first - especially if you're constantly getting letters and calls from the companies you owe money to.

When you have more than one debt, you must make sure you're dealing with the most important ones first. These are your 'priority debts' and they have the most serious consequences - like being evicted, losing your house or getting a court fine.

You can follow these five steps to find the best way to deal with your debts, depending on your situation.

Step 1 - Gather information for each debt

Step 2 - Check which ones are priority debts

Step 3 - Work out what you can afford to pay

Step 4 - Negotiate with your creditors for priority debts

Step 5 - Negotiate with your creditors for non-priority debts

You can contact us for help - you don't need to follow these steps yourself first.

## **What can we help with?**

Our experienced advisers are available to provide face to face, confidential and impartial advice in relation to debt.

We can sit down with you and draw up a financial statement using income and expenditure figures supplied by you. We can advise you on how to budget. Where appropriate we can discuss options including bankruptcy, debt relief orders, debt management plans, administration orders, debt consolidation and Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs). We can also advise you on whether you can access benefits or grants to increase your household income.

**For more information or help about debts, money matters, or general advice please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Email: [info@pwadvice.org](mailto:info@pwadvice.org) Tel: 01892 838619**