



## Awareness Training Event for Faith Groups

In Autumn 2011, Sunderland City Council signed an agreement to work with the national *Illegal Money Lending Team*. The aim is to help individuals and families in the city trapped in a cycle of high interest rates, to break free from what can often be a devastating situation.

In February 2012 there will be a series of events across Sunderland to raise awareness of the issues, simple signposting techniques, and help available from the Illegal Money Lending Team and local organisations. A huge part of this will be through training events among key sectors of finance, housing and public services and organisations working in partnership.

In recognition of the care and support offered by faith groups to individuals and families in their communities, there is also an opportunity for ministers, leaders and those with a particular pastoral role to attend a special Faith Group awareness session of what can be done and to learn more about the Credit Union at:

**The Venerable Bede School, Tunstall Road, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0SX on**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Refreshments 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start.**

In recent years the Illegal Money Lending Team have worked with communities across the country and here are some of the results so far:

- Over **£38.8 million** worth of illegal debts have been written off.
- More than **200 prosecutions** have been secured, leading to custodial sentences in excess of 128 years (plus an indefinite sentence)
- The Project has **helped over 18,000 victims** of loan sharks.
- Over **£1.5 million** in cash has been seized.
- More than **£27 million** worth of assets are being investigated.
- More than **750 victims** have been referred to alternate (legal) sources of financial support.

If you would like to attend this session please let us know how many you expect to be in your group by telephone: 0191 561 1154, email: [sunderland.partnership@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:sunderland.partnership@sunderland.gov.uk) or return the form below .

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**Yes, I/we would like to attend the awareness training at The Venerable Bede School on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

Contact Name:..... Tel: .....

Faith Group Name:.....

Number of people in our group:.....

Do you have any special requirements? .....

**Please return to The Sunderland Partnership, PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.**