

## BIDFORD RESIDENTS GET CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU OUTREACH SERVICE



The start of a new year is the ideal time to take advantage of the new outreach Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service which has launched in the library.



Stratford district is one of the largest rural districts in England, and for many people making the journey into Stratford can be problematic. Stratford CAB is now operating a fortnightly service for Bidford residents at the Library and Information Centre on Bramley Way. The service is available on the first and third Fridays of each month. It is free and completely confidential.

The CAB regularly helps people with the issues they face, and can advise on anything from debt and legal problems to benefits and housing queries. At this time of year they are particularly busy, as the cold weather creates higher fuel bills and financial problems can be at their worst just after Christmas. However, the CAB can offer a great deal of help and support, both with practical matters like managing finances or making sure clients are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.

As well as offering general advice, the CAB has a team of specialist advisers helping people with complex debt problems, as well as specialist housing advice, often helping families to stay in their homes when eviction is threatened. Anyone faced with such problems should contact the CAB as soon as possible, as the earlier they can help the better the outcome usually is.



The manager of Stratford CAB, Sue Green, says “Nationally, our statistics show that approximately 50% of people contact the CAB for help at some point in their lifetime. The most important advice I can give is not to avoid the problems that are worrying you. Asking for help isn’t easy, but when people do share their difficulties with us, we are often able to make a real difference and improve their situation.”



This free service is available to everyone regardless of who they are and what their circumstances may be. So if you feel they might be able to help, contact the CAB now to make an appointment on 01789 200136. For people who cannot make it to the library, there is also a home visit service.

If you have internet access, or can get to the library where access is available for free, try logging on to the CAB’s advice centre on [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)