



## **To the Churches of the CAP/Southport Multiple Churches Partnership Agreement for the Southport CAP Debt Centre**

2nd December 2020

Dear Friends

### **Important News re the Southport CAP Debt Centre**

We hope this letter finds you well and your congregations blessed, despite the difficult times we are all experiencing this year.

Firstly, can we thank you for your generous support since we established the Southport CAP Debt Centre as a stand alone entity in our town in 2016. Your support has enabled the Centre to continue to support some of the most challenged and desperate people facing debt in the area.

Secondly, we want to make an important announcement to you about the future of the Centre from the 31st December 2020. The reason we are writing to you as a Church Leader is because either you or your predecessor, on behalf of your Church, are signatories to the Multiple Church Partnership Agreement with CAP. Compassion Acts and CAP nationally, following a period of discussion, have mutually concluded that the Southport CAP Debt Centre should close from the end of this year.

The CAP model is to partner with local Churches. Within Southport, the Southport & Formby Churches Debt Centre Limited was established to facilitate this in 2016 and at that time the Southport CAP Debt Centre was its sole activity. The charity however has changed significantly since it absorbed the work of the Trussell Trust Foodbank and Community Money Advice, together with extending its activity to Benefits Advice, Food Pantry and Next Step's Cafe, and therefore we, CAP and Compassion Acts, find ourselves in a very different situation than in 2016.

Working together we have sought to find a solution but alas, have had to recognise that a partnership between CAP and Compassion Acts does not meet CAPs model of partnering with the local church; Compassion Acts respects the position of CAP in this regard.

In terms of the financial position of the CAP Debt Centre, Compassion Acts will write to the churches in the Multiple Church Partnership Agreement and individual contributors under separate cover. The current CAP Debt Centre Manager, Adrian Wallbridge, will continue to work for Compassion Acts, to become the Debt Advisor for Community Money Advice from 1st January 2021. CAP nationally will continue to support all those who have entered into a debt management plan with the Southport CAP Debt Centre.

This decision will in no way impact CAP's ongoing support of other CAP projects in Southport, such as Job Clubs, Fresh Start programmes and Money Courses. Furthermore, this decision does not impinge on CAP and local churches' future decisions if they feel it is right to open a CAP Debt Centre in the future.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter further with either of us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

God bless



Rev Patrick Evans  
Trustee, Compassion Acts  
07813 211501



Nick Smith  
Regional Leader - North West &  
North East, CAP  
07909 230668