

**Subject** Citizens Advice Powys awarded £25,000 through the Martin Lewis Fund

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Citizens Advice Powys is celebrating being awarded £25,000 through the Martin Lewis Fund that will help make a real difference to local people's lives.

The funding award announced today will help to deliver a project that will provide more tailored support to people facing mental health problems in new ways which could be rolled out across other parts of the country.

The project will offer advice on a range of subjects, including debt and welfare benefits, to members of local mental health services via digital platforms such as Skype.

Citizens Advice Powys will be able to share its learning, and potentially encourage other local Citizens Advice to launch similar projects so that more people across England and Wales benefit.

Muriel Ryan, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Powys said:

"We are delighted to receive this award through the Martin Lewis Fund. This grant gives us the opportunity to run a project we have already tested with clients and have recognised can benefit local people with mental health difficulties."

Martin Lewis said:

"Few realise Citizens Advice, which is at the bedrock of British society, is a charity not a government agency – a shame as the work it does is truly life saving. I've met many people who were suicidal over legal or money life challenges they couldn't cope with, yet a visit to their local Citizens Advice put them on the path to dealing with it. As a huge fan of the organisation, I wanted to do something to help it pioneer new ways to reach out and improve people's lives, and I'm excited to see where this takes us."

Citizens Advice Powys is one of 25 local services across England and Wales to receive £25,000. The funding follows an initial award of £1,000 in September 2016 to test initial project ideas.

The funding comes from a £1 million donation from Martin Lewis to Citizens Advice across the UK in 2015.

Projects had to fit into categories including making people more digitally skilled, working closely with health and social care providers, and future opportunities for volunteers.

**Contact Citizens Advice Powys on 0345 601 8421 Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am to 3pm**

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