



Domestic violence debt advocate (DVDA)

Introduction

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) is the only charity in the UK dedicated to raising awareness of economic abuse and transforming responses to it. Our work is informed by women who have experienced economic abuse – the Experts by Experience Group (EEG).

Money Advice Plus (MAP): is a registered charity, working both locally in Sussex and nationwide. Our mission is to help people manage their money effectively. We do this by providing money handling and advice services, working in partnership with other agencies. Our independent, confidential and flexible approach is tailored to individuals' needs, allowing us to reach those who find it most difficult to access advice. MAP has run The Domestic Abuse and Money Education (DAME) Project since 2010, providing a unique benefit and debt casework telephone service to survivors of domestic abuse.

Together we are seeking to appoint a Domestic Violence Debt Advocate (DVDA) to provide face to face benefit and debt advice to survivors of domestic abuse. This role will work across two projects:

The Economic Justice Project (EJP) led by SEA seeks to facilitate an innovative solution to coerced debt. It draws on practice from the US where consumer law is used to challenge financial transactions that women were coerced into making or which were fraudulently made by their abusive ex-partner, leaving them in debt and with poor credit histories.

The Domestic and Economic Abuse Project (DEAP) led by Money Advice Plus in partnership with SEA seeks to facilitate integrated approaches to domestic abuse and benefit/debt/money advice at local level.

Job description

The role of the Domestic Violence Debt Advocate (DVDA) is to:

- Provide debt advice to women accessing services at Solace Women’s Aid and Advance (two days a week).
- To train money advisers across 4 London Boroughs and bring Domestic Abuse to the forefront of their work.
- Draw on the learning of the project to develop best practice resources for domestic violence services and debt advisors.

Experience of working with women who have experienced domestic violence is desirable but not essential training can be provided.

Knowledge	
An understanding of issues affecting clients in debt and facing financial exclusion.	Essential
An understanding of the importance of confidentiality, independence and impartiality in giving advice.	Essential
Knowledge of welfare benefit system/dealing with debt	Essential
Hold a MIMA Cert	Desirable
Approved DRO Intermediary	Desirable
Skills	
Excellent oral communication skills, including telephone manner.	Essential
Work on a self-supervision basis, prioritise own work and meet deadlines	Essential
Contribute effectively to the efficient running of the two projects	Essential
An ability to use initiative, patience and perseverance to help resolve problems.	Essential
Pay close attention to detail	Essential
Writing skills	Essential
Experience	
Debt and benefits advice and casework with a minimum of 1 year’s recent experience (full-time or equivalent)	Essential
Experience of facilitating and supporting partnership working	Essential
Experience of providing training	Essential
Experience of working with women who have experienced domestic violence	Desirable
Qualities	
Strong interpersonal communication skills and experience of interacting with a diverse range of people/groups	Essential

A commitment to the values and ethos of SEA and MAP	Essential
To maintain the aims of the service specifically relating to confidentiality and Equal Opportunities	Essential

Terms and conditions

The position of Domestic Violence Debt Advocate (DVDA) is offered full-time (37.5 hours a week) on a 12-month fixed contract. The position may be extended in the future subject to funding. The position is based in London.

SEA and Money Advice Plus are offering a salary of £28-30,000 and membership of a pension scheme with a contribution of 2 per cent.

This post is open to women only and is exempt under schedule 9 (Part 1) of the Equality Act 2010.

This post would be funded by SEA for four days (Economic Justice Project) and Money Advice Plus for one day.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Nicola Sharp-Jeffs (SEA Director) or Karen Perrier (Money Advice Plus Client Service Manager) via phone or email:

Nicola.Sharp@survivingeconomicabuse.org / 07551 783193

karen.perrier@moneyadviceplus.org.uk / 01323 635999

Please email the completed 2 part application form addressing how you meet the knowledge, skills, experience and qualities set out in the job description to: info@survivingeconomicabuse.org or send by post to Money Advice Plus, 2nd Floor 182-184 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3BB

We would be grateful if you would also complete our equal opportunities monitoring form.

The deadline for applications is 17th December 2018, with interviews taking place in London on 21st December 2018.