

The Money Charity Policies – A Quick Reference Guide

Our Policy Papers¹ set out our principles and proposals in policy areas affecting financial capability

Financial Wellbeing	We believe that everyone achieves financial wellbeing by managing money well.		
Empowerment	We empower people across the UK to build the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours to make the most of their money throughout their lives, achieve their goals and live a happier and more positive life as a result.		
Products and Services	We develop and deliver products and services which provide education, information and advice on money matters for those in the workplace, in our communities, and in education.		
Influencing	We influence and support through consultancy, policy, research and media work.		
‘Can-Do’ Attitude	We find solutions to meet the needs of our clients, partners, funders and stakeholders.		
Financial Education for Young People	Student Finance	Financial Capability for Workplaces and Communities	Women and Financial Wellbeing
Children and young people of all ages should receive meaningful financial education throughout school and college.	Financial education and advice should remain free and available for all students who need it and be available early in the HE decision process.	All people should receive the assistance and advice they need to raise their financial capability throughout their lives.	The particular experiences of women, including the structural issues facing them, should be recognised in financial capability work.
Financial education should be a statutory part of the PSHE curriculum.	Financial education and advice should involve parents as well as prospective students.	Financial capability should be delivered primarily via community and workplace channels, rather than ‘digital only.’	Financial capability work should respond to gendered financial arrangements in relationships and families.
These commitments should be supported by sufficient teaching time, clear school leadership, additional resources and teacher training.	Student finance should be designed to enable as broad a range of people as possible to participate in higher education.	Employers should engage with financial capability, recognising employee needs that go beyond Employee Assistance Programmes.	The impact of childcare on lifetime asset accumulation should be recognised, along with practical compensating actions.
Budget should be available to engage external experts such as The Money Charity to deliver financial education as part of the school programme.	Accommodation costs should be affordable in all parts of the UK. Loans and rent should be paid monthly to ease budgeting.	Resources should be available to engage independent external experts such as The Money Charity, to deliver financial capability in workplaces and communities.	Women should be enabled to adopt positive financial aspirations and gain confidence in the skills they have.
Financial education should be Ofsted-inspected and examined, to ensure prioritisation by schools and colleges.	Government should not worsen the repayment terms of student debt after it is incurred.	Financial capability interventions should occur on a scale that can make a measurable improvement to the UK’s overall level of financial capability.	Financial capability work should be gender sensitive, providing women-only workshops where appropriate.

¹ To see the Policy Papers in full: <https://themoneycharity.org.uk/work/policy/policy-papers/>

Credit and Debt	Financial Inclusion	Tax and Benefits	Financial Regulation
Free debt advice should be available to everyone who needs it and should include financial capability support as part of the integrated approach being developed by the Money and Pensions Service.	Government should ensure that basic financial services, including cash and day-to-day banking, are available universally in all parts of the country, with access channels suited to all levels of need and ability.	All users of the tax and benefit system should have access to quality free advice on how the tax and benefits system works, the taxes they are required to pay and the benefits they are entitled to receive. Free tax advice should be expanded.	The regulatory perimeter should be amended so that all financial products and services promoted to retail customers are FCA-regulated. ²
MAPS and FCA should clarify the advice/guidance boundary so that financial capability charities can give general advice tailored to individual circumstances without crossing the boundary into regulated debt advice.	Digital innovation, including Open Banking, should be designed to provide benefits to all consumers and not unintentionally create new barriers.	The tax and benefit systems should be designed to be as clear and simple as possible, using language people can understand, so they are easy for users to navigate.	FCA should introduce a Duty of Care on the part of firms to avoid reasonably foreseeable harm to the consumer and to act in the consumer's best interests.
FCA should continue its scrutiny of high cost credit, making sure that the terms of all credit products are fair and consistent with good personal financial management.	Regulators should ensure that firms amend their offers and pricing to reduce or remove the 'poverty premium'.	Non-digital or assisted-digital means of access should be available for users who are not by themselves able to access systems digitally.	The FCA should require firms to ensure their products can be explained to consumers in simple ways that assist financially capable choices.
FCA should change the regulated minimum credit card repayment ³ to ensure that credit card debt is short-term, rather than long-term debt at short-term interest rates.	Regulators and firms should have policies and systems to address the needs of consumers in vulnerable circumstances.	Policies that cause people to go into debt, such as benefit delays and sanctions, should be avoided.	Demand-based price discrimination (the 'loyalty surcharge') should be banned, except for a strictly time-limited switching bonus, eg a one year preferential rate or cash bonus.
We support the debt Breathing Space which the Government has announced. Ideally this should be introduced sooner than 2021.	Improving financial capability should be central to the UK's approach to financial inclusion (see policies on Young People and Workplaces and Communities).	Changes to the tax and benefit systems should be designed to make money management easier and enable people to behave in financially capable ways.	Fair minimum interest rates should be paid on savings. 'Loyal savers' should not be penalised.

² At present, for example, selling investments in gold or certain types of crypto-asset (or providing advice on such investments) falls outside the FCA regulatory perimeter, despite the consumer harm that may arise from investment in such assets. See: <https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/consultation/cp19-03.pdf>

³ For example, a higher minimum repayment combined with a £ ratchet (a constant rate of repayment in £, rather than a declining repayment).