

Case Study

Aberdeen City Council with Who Cares? Scotland

Virtual Money Works

Nearly half of young people in the UK say they do not seek any guidance when making financial decisions, according to the Money Advice Service. Often this is due to the taboo of talking openly about money, the lack of a trusted person to approach or simply not knowing that help is available.

We caught up with Jason and Renee after their final MyBnk Virtual Money Works session as they navigate the early years of independent living. Expert-led and live, this accredited course helps young people directly confront their money worries.

Jason, 24

"I've been living independently since I was 18. I find it challenging trying to save because you've got so many bills to pay, so many outgoings - being an adult is hard. I'm about to move house again and I'm going to need to borrow some money.

I've learnt how to properly save and the importance of moving banks - you shouldn't just stick with what you know but try other accounts with different features. I mostly enjoyed learning about how to look around for loans, avoid unnecessary debt and different ways to make income - plus the benefits you're entitled to and pension schemes.

The most useful thing for me was obviously learning about borrowing - the difference between APR and AER and priority versus non priority debt. This will help us all stay out of trouble.

After today I'm going to start saving. I'll try out Monzo and the pots feature and I'm going to look at different interest rates on loans to find the best deal for me. This course made me a lot more aware that's for sure. Now I know where to go for what I need and what to look for.

I really enjoyed this programme, the resources were really good. It should definitely be taught in schools from a young age - you have to learn these things. Especially to stop you getting into bad debt - some companies are out to get you! You need to know what to look out for and how to go about it properly rather than getting sucked in, getting a bad deal and having to pay a lot more than you needed to. It gives young people a good start to life, a fighting chance."



Key Facts

Format: 2 X 4 hours or 4 X 2 hours.

Target group: 16-25 year olds.

Group size: 3-10 young people.

Funder: Hymans Robertson.

60%

debt reduction for participants
VS
a 50% increase for control groups.

ERS



Renee, 21

“Over the last four years of living independently I’ve found it hard to know where I can go to for the information I need about money. And I’ve struggled working out how best to save for something in the future because a lot of it will go towards living expenses.

In the past I probably overspent and thought I needed things when I didn’t. The course tested our knowledge of stuff we sort of already know or that we think we know - it helped ground us.

The budgeting bit helped me get a better understanding of how much I spend. The demotivator activity definitely highlighted this. It opens our eyes: this is the way we’re living at the moment, what can we change in the future?

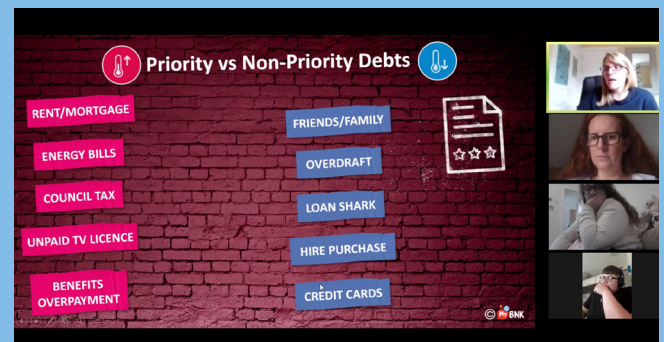


I learnt a lot about borrowing and percentage rates. If you don’t understand how it works it could get you into big trouble. Some are cheaper or more expensive and you can use a different type of borrowing depending on the situation.

In the short term I’m just about managing ok. But now I’m going to look at different bank accounts and start thinking about mortgages for the future. It’s given me a good starting point for saving for bigger things like a house.

If we learnt these things in school, we’d have it drilled into us more - it would stop you getting into debt. Some young people are more vulnerable and may not have the resources of family or friends to help them. So it’s better that everyone’s taught it from a young age.

I loved the warmups - they were fun and helped us get into a heavy topic. I liked how there were links to different sites we could go to. I realised there’s a lot more than one or two resources out there - there’s loads of places to get help. I used to look at my payslip and didn’t really understand it. Now I will, because I have the information and I know where to go if I want to find out more.”



This course is a variation of our face-to-face Money Works programme. Contact info@mybnk.org or 020 3581 9920 to find out more or request a session.