



Lewes District



Supporter request

Our vision is to be a local charity that promotes a fairer Lewes District, where its people have access to free, impartial and accredited advice and support to enable our community to thrive and flourish.

Lewes District Citizens Advice (LDCA) is an independent, local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. We exist to empower individuals and families across our district to find and access solutions to their problems and to understand and enact their rights.

People's needs are becoming increasingly desperate and complex, spiralling into cycles of poverty, poor health, isolation and deprivation.

Accredited by the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) we are the only provider of third sector quality-assured advice in our district, which covers the major towns of Seaford, Lewes, Newhaven and Peacehaven, as well as many rural settlements.

We are a member of the national Citizens Advice service, but as a fully independent charity, we are reliant on raising our own income.



The need

We meet people on a daily basis who are facing a personal, welfare and financial crisis. We are seeing the devastating cumulative effects of increasing economic hardships on the lives of those in our district. Influenced by various socio-political factors, the cost-of-living crisis and the legacy of the pandemic; soaring house, fuel and food prices are plunging those already living hand-to-mouth into deeper, inescapable levels of poverty.

Getting by for many people has become a daily struggle, a new norm of hardships, going without essentials and suffering inequity. Those who were already on a precipice of coping are now forced to choose between a warm home, food or keeping on top of essential household bills. A dire lack of social and council housing in the Southeast, increasing rents, cold and mouldy homes are driving more vulnerable people into physical ill-health, no fault evictions, and homelessness. Juggling impossible decisions, over half of our current debt clients are already in a negative budget, rapidly spiralling into a cycle of poverty, poor health, isolation and deprivation with little power to improve their circumstances. More people that we support are in employment than ever before, illustrating that those in work are struggling to manage to get by too.

Our professional advisors are ready to support people with a broad variety of issues

Housing	Employment and education	Debt and finances	Family matters	Immigration
Energy and fuel	Benefits and tax credits	Health care	Legal and civil rights	Emergency vouchers for food, fuel and household essentials

Our impact in 2024

- We supported **2293** people across Lewes District
- With **7008** differing issues
- Over **£500,000** in income gains and debts written off
- **62%** of people were disabled or had a long-term health condition
- **1,883** local Advice Line calls answered
- **23%** of support was provided in person
- **33%** of the people were supported were in employment

Taking into account the immense value of our volunteer hours, professional skillsets and income gains won, for every £1 that is invested in LDCA, there is return of £19.70 in public value, another £10.13 to the people we help, and another £2.69 in fiscal value.

We improve clients financial circumstances and save vast amounts of money for the wider economy, including for the NHS and local councils. We are supporting people before they need more intense and costly support, upstreaming support, alleviating hardships and being a front line preventative service. We help prevent people from being crisis, but are here to support them if they do.



Ways you can make a real difference to local people, helping to prevent hardships and lift people out of poverty.

We need to urgently raise more funds to ensure that we can continue to provide vital services, now and in the future. Stagnant grants and increasing running costs are putting the charity under severe financial pressures. We have no further possible cost savings that we can make that wouldn't result in service contraction, resulting in fewer people being able to access essential advice and support.

We need to raise an extra £50,000 in 25/26 to ensure that we can avoid cutting services and support.

Ways you can support LDCA includes:

- One off donation
- Regular donation
- Choose us as your nominated charity
- Undertake sponsorship events or activities, raising funds for LDCA.
- Donate goods or professional services

Companies can offset charity donations against their corporation tax

Demonstrate your commitment to corporate social responsibility and your commitment to having a positive impact on improving local peoples quality of life.

How to give and support our work

Bank transfer: Lewes District Citizens Advice
Sort Code 60-13-09
Account 64191613

PayPal: [LDCA PayPal](#)

Just Giving [LDCA justgiving](#)

Sharmila's Everest base camp challenge fundraising page [Sharmila donation page](#)

Gift aid and donation forms can be found here [Donation forms](#)

Event and sponsorship forms can be found here [Sponsorship form for your own fundraising event](#)

Client and volunteer voices

To hear directly from a client about the difference we made, we have shared a two minute film about a client we supported, Brian. [Brian's story](#) His story exemplifies exactly why we exist. Brian was only supported by us to access what he was entitled to, but the system was simply impossible for him to engage with. We know that there are many more Brians who we haven't yet been able to meet.

It's just incredible that this exists - purely to help and support and give. It's truly a blessing!"

"I started volunteering with LDCA in September, 2004, the week after I took early retirement from my job. I knew that I would need something to keep me occupied and, hopefully, challenged. It's now been nearly 20 years since I started training and I'm still learning something new every week. It's great to be working within an organisation which helps so many people every day." – Wendy

"The service is priceless. So very helpful and Informative. The person was patient, understanding, she listened and heard what I was saying. Thank you very much."

More information

Read more about our work using the following links

Year in review 2024 [Our work in 2024](#)

Annual report for 23/24 [LDCA ANNUAL REPORT 23/24](#)

Research and campaigns highlights for 2024 [R&C review 2024](#)

Quarterly research and campaign board report Q3 24 [R&C report Q3 24](#)

Cost of Living for East Sussex Citizens Advice charities 2024 [No end in sight for the cost of living crisis 2024](#)

Website [LDCA website](#)

Facebook [LDCA Facebook page](#)

TikTok [LDCA tiktok](#)

YouTube [LDCA youtube channel](#)

Instagram [LDCA Instagram](#)

Please contact Sarah Archer. CEO @ ceo@lewesdistrictca.org.uk