

## **Festive financial help available at Castle & Crystal**

**Castle & Crystal Credit Union is now offering local people loans of up to £1,500 to help with the cost of Christmas.**

The credit union has increased the amount that people can apply for at Christmas to help steer them away from loan sharks and doorstep lenders in the run up to the Christmas period.

Christmas loans of £250 - £1,500 are available and can be repaid on a weekly, fortnightly, four weekly or monthly basis to suit people and must be repaid within a maximum of 11 months.



Castle & Crystal has already helped hundreds of residents to avoid expensive loans with payday lenders. Examples include offering a local nurse £1,000 to pay for extra training and helping a local mum with £1,700 to purchase a car to get her disabled son to school.

**Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health & wellbeing said:**

“Credit unions offer affordable loans as an alternative to payday lenders that can charge interest rates of up to 4,000 per cent and can lead to their customers being in more debt than they were before taking out the loan.

“I would encourage local people to opt for their local Dudley borough credit union this Christmas period, rather than choosing loan sharks and doorstep lenders.”

To find out more on Castle & Crystal Credit Union, including more information on how to apply for a savings account or a loan please visit [www.castleandcrystal.co.uk](http://www.castleandcrystal.co.uk) or call 01384 814771.

## **Ends**

### **For more information contact:**

Sophie Byatt, Business & Marketing Assistant, Castle & Crystal Credit Union on 01384 817620 or email: [sophie.byatt@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.byatt@dudley.gov.uk).

### **For further information contact:**

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## **Notes to editors**

1. Castle & Crystal Credit Union can be followed on Twitter @Castle\_Crystal and found on Facebook at CastleCrystalCreditUnion.
2. Castle & Crystal Credit Union is situated at 25 New Street, Dudley, DY1 1LT.
3. A credit union is a not-for-profit financial co-operative that is owned by its members and runs for the benefit of its members. As a mutual organisation, we allow people within the local community to save and borrow money whilst keeping your money circulating within the local area.