

The England Illegal Money Lending Team

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STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

What is a Loan Shark?

- A LOAN SHARK is someone who lends money as a business to 2 or more people without having the correct **Permissions** from the Financial Conduct Authority
- Under the Financial Services and Market Act 2000 it is a criminal offence to lend money with out correct permission
- How to check: <http://register.fca.org.uk>

A Quick History

- 2004 – Pilot Birmingham & Glasgow
- 2011 – National
- LIAISE, Intelligence and Investigators
- 2 Seconded Police Officers
- Legal team – we prosecute loan sharks
- Over 300 years in prison
- 27,000 victims
- Over £70 million illegal debt written off
- **IMLT** (Illegal Money Lending Team) solely investigate and prosecute Loan Sharks and any other criminality we find evidence of including: rape, threats to kill, fraud, blackmail, modern day slavery, drugs, firearms etc

Loan shark behaviour

- Harassment – telephone, at home, social media
- Control
- Knowledge
- Aggression
- Manipulation
- Good cop /bad cop
- Charming? / Friendly
- Spectrum of behaviour

Victim diversity

- Families/individuals living hand to mouth
- Flexi hours/ Self employed
- Chaotic lifestyle
- Complex needs
- Desperate
- No savings



Why people borrow

- Everyday living expenses
- Rent/mortgage
- Health cost/funeral
- Birthdays/Christmas
- It was easy
- Pay off other debts
- Home repairs

Sentenced by debt

Victims who can't pay, may be:

- Coerced into crime
- Rooms used to store, drugs, weapons, stolen goods
- Teenage drug runners
- Shoplifting
- Prostitution
- Assaults/collectors
- Fall behind with rent
- Financial abuse – loan shark has control over the victims access to economic resources, preventing victim to support themselves and family

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Mum of 3

- A mum-of-three was spared jail for having a cannabis farm in her home.
- “Sharon” was pressurised by loan sharks who she owed money to.
- Turned to loan sharks after getting into financial trouble and being refused legal loans.
- Unable to keep up with increasing repayments.
- Forced to cultivating drugs at her home to keep the loan sharks at bay.
- The young family lived in constant fear of the loan sharks, friends/family, police and local authorities.

Family with complex needs

- Mum of 6 was unable to purchase basic household items.
- Son with ADHD had damaged her property and she was advised she would have to pay for repairs.
- Borrowed money from loan shark, to fix the property and buy household items.
- Unable to keep up with increasing loan repayments, started drinking, taking drugs and gambling.
- Turned to shoplifting to fund loan shark repayments and addictions.
- Loan shark assaulted her, stole money and raped her.
- Victim was evicted from property and lost custody of all children.

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Young Family

- Polish family moved to the Northwest as husband secured a job with a Polish fencing and landscaping firm.
- Landlord of private rented property wanted £1000 deposit plus 2 months rent in advance.
- Work colleagues said that the employer loans money.
- Husband obtained a £2000 loan from his employer and over 2 years was forced to work Sat/Sun for free and £200 was taken from every months pay.
- Loan Shark has no Polish translation it's commonly termed "Blood Money".

Young victim

- Following a community action day, IMLT received a letter from an 8 year old girl.
- Letter outlined how scared her and her mum were of a loan shark who called every Friday night;
 - They had to hide behind the sofa, with a blanket over them.
 - They had no money, the house is cold and the little girl had to eat breakfast at school.
- The name and car registration of loan shark were included in the letter.

Child's Plea for Help

Sir Can you help me please

My Mum got loan off loan shark

IS name is

he calles in car

We live in

he Shouts at Mum

it maybe

and she crying and we all

hid when he calls please help

I was scared sorry

MY name is

Victims suffering with mental health conditions

- 3 schemes, providing sheltered housing for people with mental health conditions were targeted by a loan shark.
- Loan shark was a taxi driver, seen as a trusted individual by people living in the sheltered housing complex
- He charged residents for driving them, petrol he used **and** his time. He would also give them loans if they were short.
- Loan shark arranged to pick them up and take them to the cash point to get his money.
- Loan shark would “**help them**” by looking after their cash card and taking them shopping.

Salford's Story

- Weeks of action/partnership work
- Increased reports
- Op Cuju Liverpool - Sunil Philip, of Liverpool was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, 180 hrs of community service, after pleading guilty to six counts of IML Feb 2017
- Op Teddy Essex – Sijo Sabastian sentenced to 8 months imprisonment, after pleading guilty to 2 counts of IML
- Anonymous reports
- Partner referrals



Watch out for loan sharks

they could cost you

an arm and a leg

Have you or anyone you know:

- been offered a cash loan without paperwork?
- been threatened when you couldn't pay?
- had your benefit or bank card taken from you?
- had a loan which keeps growing even though you are making payments?

If yes, then
you may have
been bitten by
a loan shark

0300 555 2222

to report a loan shark in confidence • Call now for confidential help and advice

Salford City Council

Find out more [@loansharknews](#) or [stoploansharksproject](#)

www.salford.gov.uk/salfordagainstloansharks

Supported by Salford Financial Inclusion Practitioner's Group

Need financial help?

Affordable credit and free advice are available... these friendly organisations are here to help you find affordable credit or give you money advice.



There is a friendly, fair and faithful alternative...

Advice

Free, confidential and independent advice on your welfare benefits, tax credits or debt problems.

Salford Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service

Welfare Rights
0800 345 7375
Debt Advice 0800 345 7323
www.salford.gov.uk/welfarerights

Citizen's Advice Salford

0161 974 6721
www.salfordcab.org.uk

Salford Unemployed and Community Resource Centre

0161 789 2999
www.salforducrc.co.uk

Affordable Credit

Salford Credit Union

0161 686-5880
www.salfordcreditunion.com

Moneyline

0345 643 1553
www.moneyline-uk.com



Victim support

- Support victims holistically
- In their own time
- Single point of support from hotline call to prosecution and prison release.
- Support victims and witnesses
- Make appropriate partner referrals
- Prioritise intervention, based on victims
- No pressure to make a statement.

0300 555 2222 Hotline number

(Pin free number)

- The hotline is open 24 hours a day
- Every single day
- Managed by the team, on a rota
- Can be anonymous
- Calls not recorded
- Is confidential
- Calls from a variety of individuals and agencies
- Email and text service too



Contact

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Hotline 0300 555 2222

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