

ALL ABOUT

SAVINGS



A little booklet for exploring savings and their impact on you and your group!

SAVINGS

CHEAT SHEET

Did you know that your group can be a source of both savings and zero (or low) interest credit? Here's how.

We know saving money is important, but it is so hard. You know what though? Saving isn't really the problem. It's trying to save on your own that can be challenging.

Enter, your small powerful group. Here are five simple steps to get going:

- 1** **PURPOSE:** Decide why you want to save as a group (eg: To prepare for unexpected situations; to test a little business idea, etc.)
- 2** **AMOUNT & FREQUENCY:** Decide how much & how often you want to save. Some groups do £1 a week and others as much as £50 a month.
- 3** **ASSIGN ROLES:** Decide on who will manage the collection and record of the funds.
- 4** **RULES:** Decide on how the savings fund will be managed (eg: what happens if someone is not able to pay one week)
- 5** **START:** Decide on where you want to deposit the money (eg: Paypal Account) and get started!

Remember, it's your money! It's easy to do this as a group and you are in control of it. We know that saving money collectively can sometimes feel scary but it shouldn't be. Rarely, if ever (so far in our 10+ years of supporting groups we've not seen it yet...) something goes wrong, but to add that extra bit of peace of mind, we will reimburse any "lost group savings" up to £300. Just get in touch if you are having problems.

"It's there and it just happens with our direct debit. It's a relief to know we've got something and it's not getting touched unless we need it"

"Our group savings keep us together. It shows commitment and you know you have a stake in something. It makes you more determined to see it through."

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CASE STUDIES

Every group uses their savings in a slightly different way. Here are some examples from groups and how they use their savings:



One group in Paisley started by saving a few £s a week per member. Very quickly into the start of their group one of their members needed a loan because her washing machine had broken down. Instead of going to a loan shark or estranged family she was able to approach the group and the group covered the cost. She paid the group back over the course of a few months—making it manageable for her and the group!



One group in Glasgow had the bright idea to start a lunch club for isolated members in the community but they didn't know where to start. They put in £1 a week and were able to save up enough over a month to buy lentils and other food to make soup for their launch. Eventually they saved up enough profits to start a launderette where they part time employ a group member.



One group in Inverclyde uses its savings to treat each other every year to concerts and a night out which they might not have prioritised if they had not been carefully saving throughout the year.



Another group further afield saved money over the course of ten years and eventually were able to buy a flat. They now use that rental income every month to pay themselves a dividend. Talk about dreaming big?!?

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PLACES TO SAVE

A Piggy Bank

No we are not joking! Sometimes the easiest way to save, especially if you meet in person, is to just keep it in a tin until it grows to be unmanageable. Often times we overcomplicate things so if you want a quick and easy way to just get going start with something simple.

A PayPal Account

Most groups find it easiest to set up a paypal account using a shared email address that everyone in the group can access. It will require a designated contact within the group that you all trust but it makes group savings easier for things like direct debits if you go down this route.

Your Personal Account

You might find it easiest to just establish an agreement with the group that you are all saving but using your own personal accounts to manage your savings. If you wanted accountability you could screenshot your contributions every month so there is some shared acknowledgment.

Do you have another way of saving as a group? If so we'd love to know so that we can share that with others!

Don't forget that once you establish a habit of savings for three months you are eligible for Trust Money- up to £500 to jumpstart your group savings and investments in one another!

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QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What are some of the positives to saving with others?

What are some of the challenges to saving with others?

How might you avoid some of these pitfalls?

Did you know?

It's not just about saving money by putting it aside but also thinking about how to spend more wisely. To help you think about the money you could save... use money saving expert's demotivator tool (just give it a google).

- Buying a coffee outside every working day - you'd spend £750.00 a year on coffee. Over a working life that's £33,750.00
- Having one takeaway a week - you'd spend £520.00 a year on takeaway and over a working life that's £23,400.00

SAVINGS

O U R G R O U P

1

The purpose of our savings is to....

2

How much and how often we plan to save:

3

Below is how we plan to manage and record the savings?

4

We will manage the savings with these guidelines (eg: what happens if someone is not able to pay one week)

5

Details of where we will deposit the money:

Imagine where you could be a year from now?