



PARTNER RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

ENGLAND ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM

STOP LOAN SHARKS

Intervention . Support . Education

INTRODUCTION

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) has created the Stop Loan Sharks Partner Recognition Programme to recognise and reward our partners who work alongside us by helping to raise awareness of loan sharks, their impact on local communities and create safer spaces for residents to live and work.

Evidence suggests that organisations who work with us will see further benefits for their communities. IMLT can work across agendas to suit your organisation's objectives for example crime prevention, financial inclusion, modern day slavery etc. Removal of a loan shark will see greater financial autonomy, increased health and well being and improved social cohesion. We very much hope that organisations will join in our fight against loan sharks by signing up to the programme and helping us create positive change.



WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The England Illegal Money Lending Team are working with employers and partners to keep their staff and service users safe from the risk of Loan sharks. If you want greater peace of mind that your staff and service users are safe and improve their wellbeing the following programme will help you. Through this process you will be able to engage and communicate more effectively with employees/service users and help to achieve a range of business and organisational benefits.

We have devised a two standard programme that can lead you on your way to improving financial wellbeing within your organisation. Each standard lasts for two years before being renewed again. Further information on our standards and how to achieve them can be found later in the booklet.

If you are interested in this scheme and working in partnership with IMLT please get in touch with us at partner@stoploansharks.gov.uk to find out more. This document can be used as a way of setting the scene.

WHAT WILL I RECEIVE?

- ✔ Publicity materials and opportunities, including jointly branded videos / materials, acknowledgement on IMLT website and joint press launch
- ✔ Use of the IMLT logo and content on marketing materials
- ✔ Certificate and/or trophy for your office
- ✔ Opportunity to use our organisation in contract bid work under a 'CSR' agenda
- ✔ Priority access to up to £5k in grant funding subject to application terms



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE ONLY

Partner

This standard focuses on providing accurate and appropriate information to staff and service users, where applicable, about the risks of loan sharks. Activities have minimal direct costs to the business but can help inform policies and practices. The organisation must demonstrate a sustained approach to raising the profile of financial wellbeing as well as working in partnership with the IMLT.

Partner Plus+

This standard focuses on organisations becoming experts on the dangers loan sharks pose to employees and where applicable to service users' financial welfare. They promote a positive culture to staff /service users and provide financial wellbeing benefits alongside a sustained programme of training and awareness activities within the business. The organisation will be able to demonstrate excellence in its approach to illegal money lending both in terms of prevention and awareness.

How does my organisation get recognised?

To start have a look at the self- assessment documentation which can be found at <https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/partner-recognition-folder.pdf>

The self-assessment process will give you a good understanding of where your organisation stands at present in the recognition process, as well as highlighting areas which may need looking at should you wish to achieve the Partner Plus+ standard.

In order to reach Partner standard you will need to demonstrate that you have met at least five of the recognition criteria - if you meet more that's even better! Reaching Partner Plus+ standard you will need to meet five criteria from Partner Standard and five from Partner Plus+ standard.

As you fulfil each criteria remember to provide evidence towards your recognition – this should be dates, a short paragraph of what was achieved and any subsequent links/ photos that will demonstrate it. As part of the process we will discuss this in more depth as part of our initial discussion.



RECOGNITION CRITERIA

PARTNER

- Regular IMLT training of appropriate staff
- Have publicity available at offices for service users *
- Have an IMLT presence on your web and intranet site
- Promote credit union** to staff and service users*
- Allow IMLT use of local office space to facilitate statement taking
- Have a single point of contact to co-ordinate IMLT work
- Publicise our campaigns via your comms channels
- Run regular awareness sessions for service users*
- Promote the use of our reporting app.
- Organise and run a predefined piece of work (this should be agreed beforehand)

PARTNER PLUS+

- Have a policy in place to recognise loan shark victims and a co-ordinated response
- Referred intel to IMLT
- Run a credit union** incentivisation scheme for service users*
- Run regular awareness sessions for service users*
- Have a payroll deduction scheme for your organisation's staff with your local credit union**
- Run a dedicated social media campaign
- Incorporate use of IMLT education packs as part of your work
- Have a partner charter signing
- Run an IMLT event for service users*
- Run a strategic awareness project (agreed beforehand)
- Have a pre agreed action plan aimed at partners/members

*where applicable

**where there is a local credit union available

What if my organisation has already worked with IMLT?



In the past your organisation may have already worked with us and already completed some of the criteria. In order for an organisation to achieve a standard they will need to have carried out the criteria within the last six months from the date their application is submitted. Any criteria which has been carried out which is older than six months will need to be replanned and accomplished again. We have set a six month time limit as our environment is fast paced and constantly changing so it is important that organisations are up to date with our work.

What next?

Have a look at the assessment form and see where your organisation currently stands. Then contact IMLT at partner@stoploansharks.gov.uk to have an initial discussion.