

ENGLAND - ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM



Zero Tolerance to Loan Sharks **PARTNERS' AGREEMENT**

Braintree

This agreement is aimed at tackling any issues of Illegal Money Lending. The England Illegal Money Lending Team aims to prosecute illegal lenders. Our partners recognise that effectively tackling loan shark behaviour leads to safer communities and neighbourhoods for residents.

The aims of the Stoploansharks

Initiative are to:

1. Increase awareness within local communities of the approaches and tactics that illegal loan sharks adopt when targeting potential victims.
2. Create a legacy that will make it difficult for illegal loan sharks to prosper.
3. Increase the confidence of residents so they can make informed financial choices on areas such as affordable lending and saving.
4. Increase the confidence of residents to enable them to report illegal loan shark activity safely.
5. Increase the awareness of agencies working with residents to enable paid staff and volunteers to spot signs of a loan shark victim and then offer victims the opportunity of support.

We agree to achieve this by:

1. Promoting the Stoploansharks Initiative as widely as possible. Encouraging organisations to sign up to this agreement.
2. Planning and implementing initiatives to support and take part in a loan sharks awareness week.
3. Creating opportunities to provide awareness on budgeting and money advice to local communities so residents can make informed financial choices.
4. Taking a multi-agency approach to facilitate the Illegal Money Lending team to increase their reach into local communities.

