

SUNDERLAND RALLIES TO HELP FAREPAK VICTIMS

Sunderland Home Care Associates (SHCA) and not-for-profit financial service Wearsidefirst Credit Union are calling out for local businesses to join with them to help provide help for the residents of the Sunderland area affected by the collapse of the Farepak Christmas savings company.

The Farepak victims are facing a bleak Christmas after the firm went into administration with little chance of anyone getting any money back from them and the likelihood of many not being accepted for credit meaning that this festive period will be a very difficult time for most.

SHCA, an employee owned social enterprise, has got the ball rolling by donating £1,000 to the credit union which will add to the lending capacity the union has which will mean they can lend to more people who desperately need it in the coming months.

Margaret Elliott, founder member of SHCA, explained; "We're hoping that more local companies will find it in themselves to donate money to Wearsidefirst as it's so important that the people of Sunderland have a safe way to be able to apply for credit this festive season.

"Wearsidefirst obviously has limited funds it can access and needs help to ensure that there is adequate available for those who need to use it."

Mark Heskett-Saddington, Company Secretary at Wearsidefirst, said; "Many people may be refused credit elsewhere and as the Union is not for profit it has a low interest rate so people can borrow money to tide them through the festive period and then pay it back with easy installments over the next year.

"We're going to provide a lifeline for those people who have saved all year for their Farepak hampers and vouchers to have them cruelly snatched away so close to Christmas. At least this way we can go some way towards helping them."



Any businesses that are interested in helping the initiative should contact Wearsidefirst Credit Union on 0191 5147491. Any victims of the Farepak fiasco can also contact the Credit Union on the same number.

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