



Safeguarding Key Messages



Loans Sharks, the name given to persons who run an unauthorised business under Financial Services and Markets Act (2 year prison sentence –fine of £5000)

Loan Sharks are not just about the charging of high interest rates, there is no law to cap the level of interest rates.

Payday lenders are legal companies. Two main lenders closed recently, people were paying up to 400% interest.

### Loan Shark Trends

- No authority to lend money
- No paperwork given to victim
- No receipts for payments made against the loan
- Violence, intimidation and blackmail common if the payments are missed
- Loans given to anyone (including under 18's) Take cash, cards and other securities
- Rarely advertise, find clients by word of mouth
- Missed payments, higher charges added to loan
- Most borrowers think the loan shark is their 'friend' so be aware of patients talking about loans from their friends

### Victim stats

- 25% of victims considered committing suicide, 5% attempted suicide
- 16% of victims said this was during the time they were involved with the Loan Shark
- 46% said they believed the Loan Shark was their friend
- 80% of victims stated they were in a state of worry, stress or depression as a direct result of involvement with Loan Sharks

### National Success to date:

- Over 394 prosecutions
- £74million of debt written off
- Helped more than 29,000 people
- Seized and confiscated more than 1.5million in cash
- Secured more than 238yrs in prison sentences
- Proceeds Of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 proceeding are on-going for more than £27 million
- Over 24,000 staff have received training to spot loan shark activity in order to help, support and signpost those who have fallen victim to a loan shark.

**For Advice and Support contact the dedicated specialist resource.**

**Illegal Money Lending Team  
Hotline number: 0300 555222**

**Visit the website at  
[www.stoploansharks.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.uk)**

