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R3

Opportunity to improve personal finance education in schools, Yorkshire research shows – R3

Just 11% of adults in Yorkshire and Humberside say they have received useful advice about personal finance through their school or college, similar to the national average of 10% according to a new survey of over 2,000 British adults by insolvency and restructuring trade body R3 and ComRes. Another 1 in 10 adults in the region (10%) say the advice they received via public education was not useful (compared with 11% nationally).

A large majority of adults in Yorkshire and Humberside (67%) say they haven't received any advice about their personal finances at school or college, close to the UK-wide figure of 66%.

With the government having recently announced a consultation on making personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education compulsory in schools, R3 says there is an opportunity to improve financial education as part of this.

Adrian Berry, chair of R3 in Yorkshire and restructuring partner at Deloitte LLP says:

“Becoming confident and knowledgeable about personal finances is vital, and helps boost people's resilience in the face of unexpected events which can otherwise lead to financial problems. The government is willing to consider making PSHE education compulsory, which would mean more young people having access to high-quality information on personal finance and would really help improve levels of financial capability.

“While the sex and relationships aspects of PSHE education often get the headlines, the ‘E’ in ‘PSHE’ is just as important.

“Young people in the final years of school are in particular need of thorough, targeted advice on personal finance issues, as many of them are – or will soon be – old enough to apply for credit cards, car finance, and loans. Learning good financial habits including budgeting, saving and using credit products responsibly at an early age will help them to negotiate independent adult life in a savvy and resilient way.”

Public sector education has the lowest reach of personal finance advice, with just one third (33%) of those surveyed in Yorkshire and Humberside saying they have received advice in this way. The proportion of people in the region who had received advice from official government advice bodies was only slightly higher, at 34%. By comparison, over two-thirds (68%) of people in the region said they have received this type of advice from friends and family, and over half (55%) from non-government money advice bodies.

Mr Berry adds: “There is good government advice on personal finance available to adults, but it's not always easy for people to access. The government's plan to launch a new single financial advice body

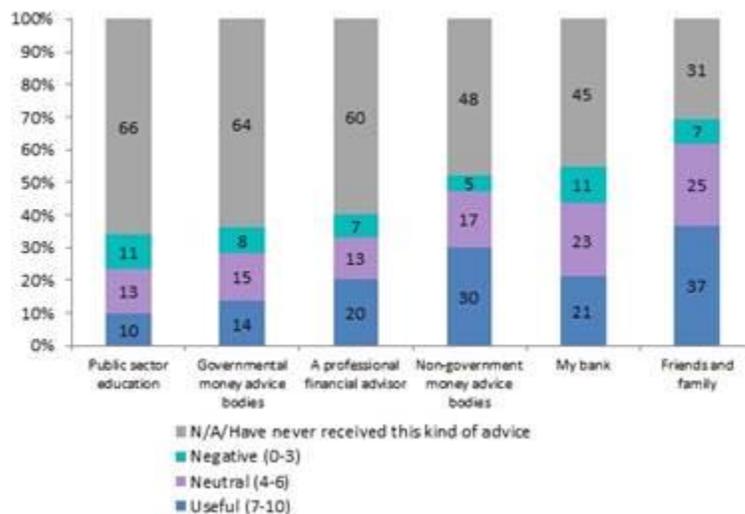
later next year presents a great opportunity to promote and develop this existing good work, and to improve overall financial capability in the UK.”

Advice from friends and family was rated as the second most helpful source of personal finance advice, with 38% of respondents in Yorkshire and Humberside rating it as useful. Non-government money advice bodies were considered as providing the most useful advice on personal finance management, by 40% of adults. Banks complete the top 3, with 25% of adults in the region considering the advice received from them as helpful.

Mr Berry comments: “While advice from friends and family undoubtedly performs a useful job, speaking to a regulated professional who has the knowledge and experience necessary to give up-to-date advice on personal finance is something that we would strongly recommend. If you had a health query, you’d talk to a specialist; the health of your finances shouldn’t be any less important.”

R3 recommends checking the credentials of anyone presenting themselves as a source of financial advice, and only using the services of regulated professionals.

Full data tables and statistics are available from R3 on request.



Base = 2,045 (all British adults)

NB: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding issues.

- ComRes interviewed 2,045 British adults online between the 1st and 2nd February 2017. Data were weighted to be representative of all British adults by age, gender, region and socio-economic grade. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Full data tables are available at www.comresglobal.com.