

For Cheshire & Warrington LEP

Cumulative Report June

We are pleased to report the following data for June 2021.

This is the fourth month of this survey and some trends are beginning to emerge. (Source data available in appendix*).

Number of volunteer opportunities posted by CVS

Volunteer opportunities are now 120% higher than that seen at the end of March. This reflects the increasing return to normal within the VCFSE sector. The pandemic saw large numbers of volunteers stand down. Some organisations report a 50% reduction in the number of volunteers available. There is a concerted campaign to recruit new ones.



Number of Volunteer opportunities posted

April - May
+38.23%

May - June
+25.53%

Foodbank activity

*May data contained an element of extrapolation. Demand, for June is clearly down. We are collecting data from five foodbanks only. There are numerous others operating.

Nevertheless, the reduction does provide a sense of encouragement and, perhaps, indicates that the pandemic recovery is moving quicker than anticipated. This is the picture from national economic data. July and August data will be particularly interesting due to school holidays.



Foodbank activity (number of vouchers)

April - May*
+17%

May* - June
-30.72%

Even with the increases shown centres report that they are running at lower figures than pre-Covid in terms of opportunities being posted. This is, almost certainly, due to the post lock down return being phased and gradual. New ways of working are being defined. The number of posts available will increase.

Citizen Advice Bureau Activity



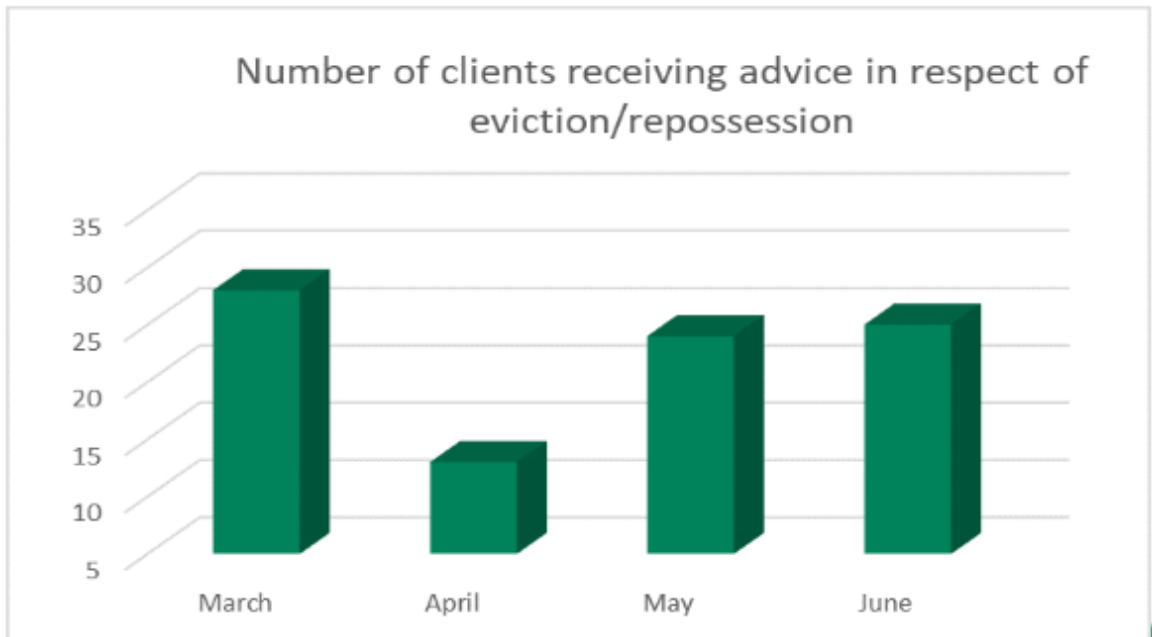
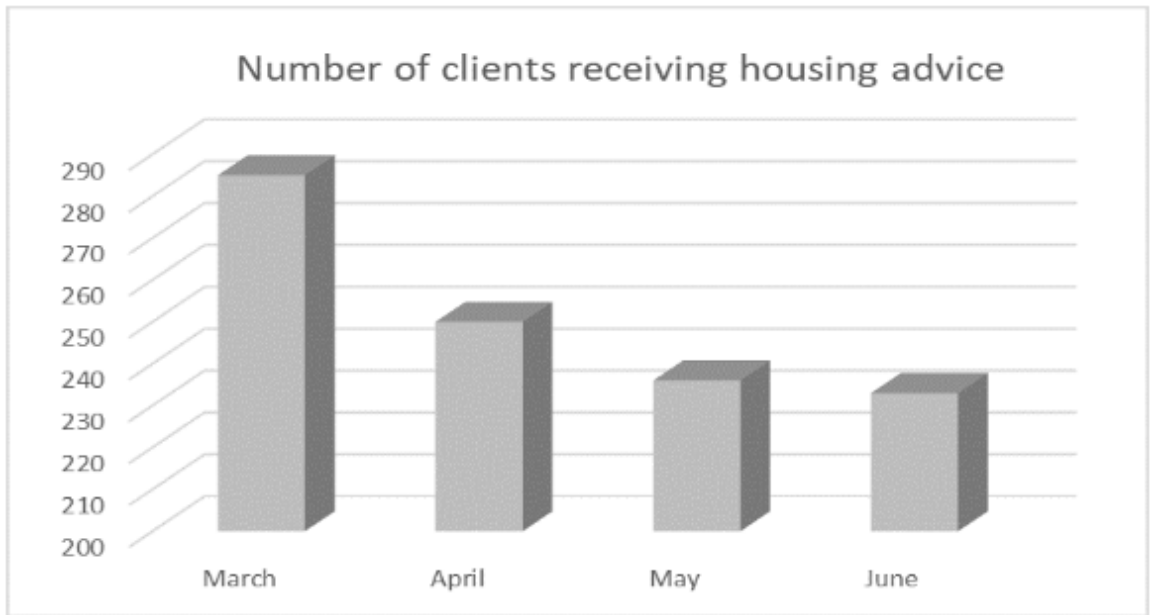
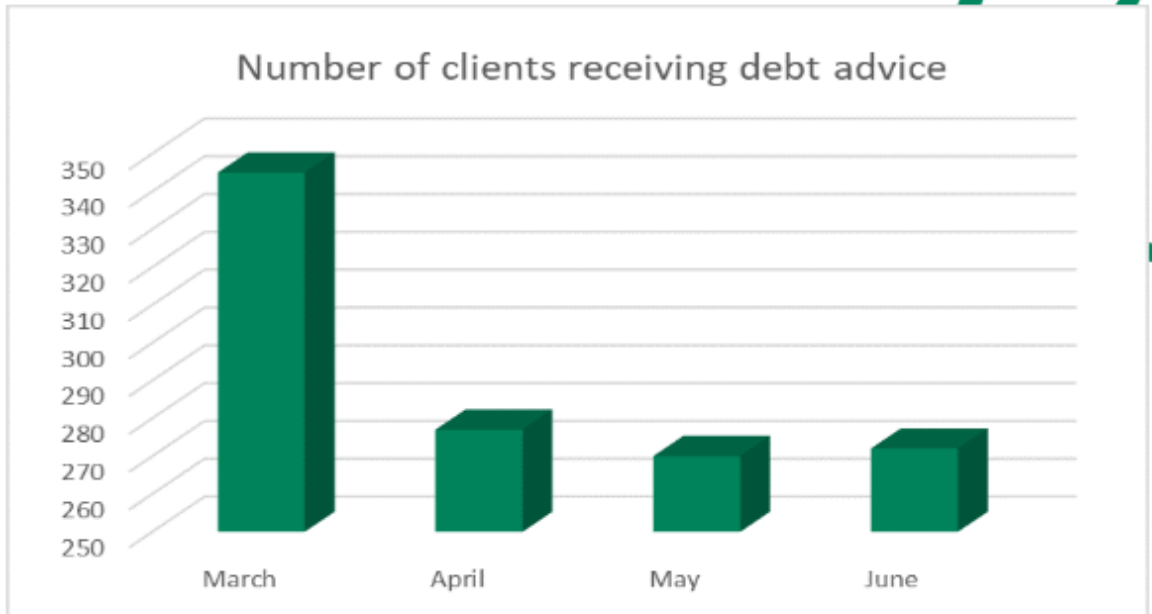
There was an element of double counting in both the April and May figures. This was caused by a respondent using the number of people for March and the number of issues for both April and May. The error was discovered when the June figures were prepared. However, the error has highlighted that, when people contact the CAB, they invariably have more than one issue to contend with. Those chosen for reporting are interlinked.

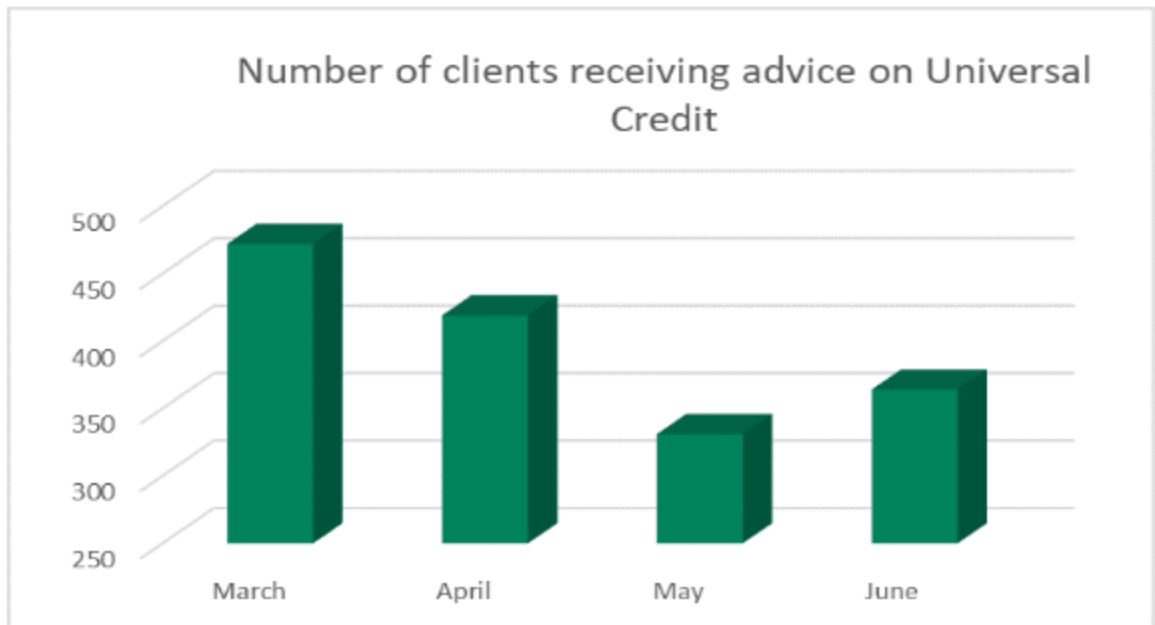
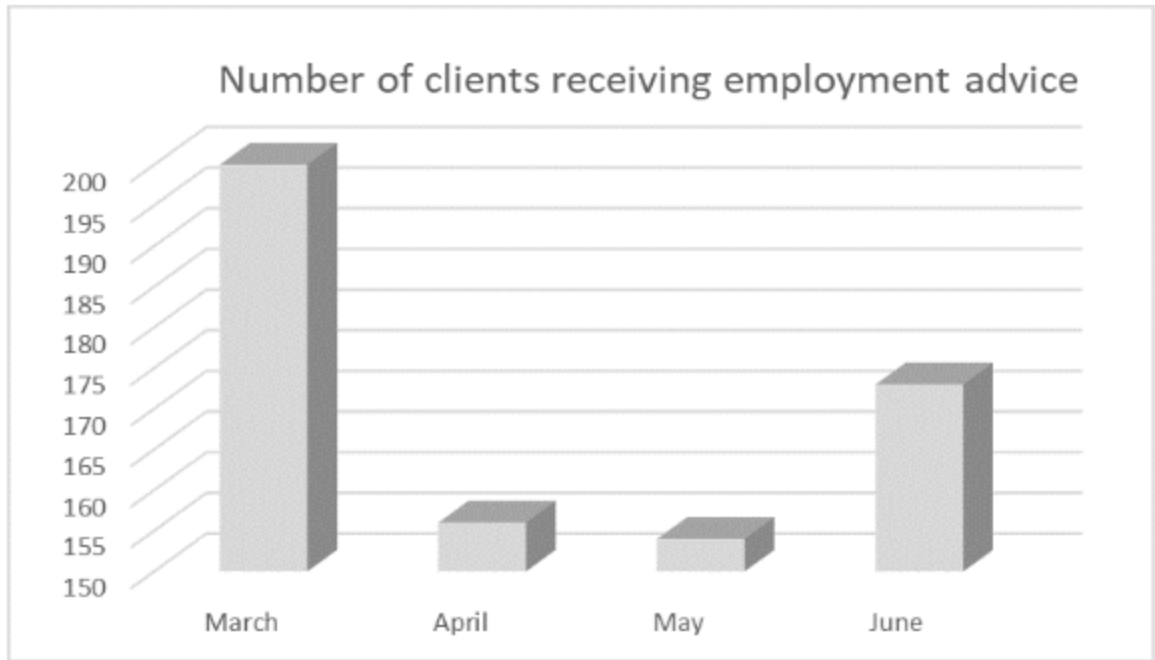
The two key employment issues remain (a) flexible working and (b) redundancy (both actual and anticipated).

The cessation of the housing eviction moratorium (1st June 2021) has yet to feed through into actual evictions. CAB's are expressing concern. Presently there is a backlog in the courts so matters have not progressed at the same rate as what would previously have been normal. Some press reports indicate that the process will mean that evictions may not start until December 2021.

Universal credit advice is predominantly around the initial claim. Once this is resolved the process the process is relatively smooth for those in work and those who are workless. There is a small number of employers who pay on a four week cycle – 13 times per year. This creates an issue in the calendar month when an employee is paid twice. The removal of the temporary uplift may produce an increase in workload. It may produce an increase in food bank referrals. We wait and see.

Graphs showing Citizen Advice Bureau Activity month on month





About CWIP

Cheshire & Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP) is a collective of organisations working across the region to coordinate support for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector. They do this through sharing best-practice and resources, assisting with the continuing efforts to tackle Covid-19, helping Cheshire & Warrington's communities and charitable organisations recover. The partnership currently consists of the following organisations:

- Cheshire Community Action
- Cheshire West Voluntary Action
- CVS Cheshire East
- Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action
- Warrington Voluntary Action

Secretariat and administration support for the Partnership is provided by Voluntary Sector North West, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West of England.



A Note of Thanks

Cheshire & Warrington Infrastructure Partnership would like to thank the organisations that contributed data, making this report possible:

Mid Cheshire Food Bank	Cheshire East CAB (Crewe/Congleton)	Cheshire East CVS
Salvation Army Food Bank – Crewe	Cheshire North CAB (Macclesfield)	Cheshire West CVS
Skillife – Macclesfield	Cheshire West CAB	Warrington CVS
Warrington Food Bank	Warrington CAB	
West Cheshire Food Bank		

Report produced by Voluntary Sector North West on behalf of CWIP. For queries please email andrew.rainsford@vsnw.org.uk and warren.escadale@vsnw.org.uk

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*Appendix

(NB source data from the following areas: Warrington, Cheshire West & Cheshire East)

Number of volunteer opportunities posted by CVS.

Total March 134
Total April 170
Total May 235
Total June 295

Number of clients receiving debt advice

Total March 345
Total April 277
Total May 270
Total June 272

Number of clients receiving housing advice

Total March 285
Total April 250
Total May 236
Total June 233

Number of clients receiving advice on Universal Credit

Total March 472
Total April 419
Total May 331
Total June 364

Foodbank activity

Total March 1510
Total April 1560
Total May 1989*
Total June 1378

Number of clients receiving advice in respect of eviction/repossession

Total March 28
Total April 13
Total May 24
Total June 25

Number of clients receiving employment advice

Total March 205
Total April 156
Total May 154
Total June 173

Number of CAB areas responding

Total March 3
Total April 3
Total May 3
Total June 3

* Data for May never completed therefore number could be higher