WEST CHESHIRE CREDIT UNION

Frequently Asked Questions Credit Union Membership

What is a Credit Union?
A Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial co-operative owned and run by its members for the benefit of its members and the local community.

How does it work?
Our members save an amount to suit their circumstances on a regular basis. These savings are pooled and used as a common fund from which members can apply for loans.

How does a Credit Union differ from a bank?
Unlike banks, Credit Unions aim to keep money circulating within the community rather than giving it to external shareholders. Credit Unions provide an ethical alternative for people who are concerned about how their money is invested.

Is my money safe in the Credit Union?
Credit Unions undergo the same checks as any other financial institution. They are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority and as part of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme all deposits up to £85,000 are protected.

Is there a minimum amount that I need to save?
No the amount and frequency that you choose to save is completely up to you and your personal circumstances all we ask is that you maintain a minimum balance of £2 to keep the account open.

What does it cost?
The credit union does not charge any fees on savings accounts, deposits and withdrawals are completely free. We do charge a one-off non-refundable membership fee of £5 which covers the administration costs involved in setting up your account and completing the necessary checks as required by the Anti Money Laundering Regulations.

Can I apply for a loan?
Once members have saved for a minimum of 8 weeks they can apply to borrow up to 4 times the amount that they have saved, to a maximum of £2000. The smallest loan that the credit union offers is £100 and for members that are not currently in employment the maximum loan amount that we can consider is £650.