

I wanted to give some facts ahead of what I suspect will be a decision to cut advisory services by 55%.

Volunteering as a Citizens Advice Bureau receptionist, I have access to the CAB database. I was interested to know the number of clients in Twerton and Whiteway who have been helped by the Citizens Advice Bureau over the last 3 years.

So I entered the postcode "BA2 1" which is a postcode covering Twerton and Whiteway. The answer came back... the CAB has 1,479 clients in that area. A lot of people from Twerton and Whiteway are helped by the CAB.

And, you can tell that these requests to the CAB from Twerton and Whiteway are about very real situations of need.

Because if you input other postcodes, representing more affluent areas of Bath, a fewer number of clients exist for those parts of Bath. For example, the Lansdown postcode BA1 5, when entered into the CAB database, returns just 392 clients compared with Twerton and Whiteway's 1479.

One of the arguments put forward in favour of the 55% cut, has been that a reformed advisory service can target vulnerable people who aren't linked in with the CAB now.

So I was interested to see how far the CAB has made inroads into Whiteway, which has a reputation for being one of the hardest to reach communities in Bath. It turns out that [redacted], which is just one street in Whiteway, has 125 clients who have received help from the CAB.

And [redacted] has 59 clients who have received help from the CAB. [redacted] has 121 houses, so with 59 clients, that averages out at about 50% of households in Roseworn Close being helped.

I said earlier that Twerton and Whiteway together have 1,479 clients helped by the CAB. The population of the Twerton Ward is just over 5,300. So something like 1 in 5 households here have received help

So knowledge of the CAB as a source of help is going to be quite ^{people} among these communities and is probably circulated around the community grapevine to some extent.

I just see a Council Cabinet about to harm these communities unnecessarily by removing a very important lifeline of help and support.