

BENEFITS

Somerset to axe advice team's grant

The future of a welfare rights team is in doubt after its funding was cut midway through a three-year agreement.

Somerset welfare rights unit, which provides independent advice to low-income families, must find a new source of funding by August or face closure after Somerset Council cancelled the contract.

The council appears to want to hand the work to a joint Pensions Service and local authority advice team.

Unit manager Elizabeth Luke said councillors decided an independent service was no longer needed as the joint team was already providing benefits advice to older people.

The council refused to comment.