

15% annual saving on standard overheads for Plough and Share

Plough and Share is a community credit union based in Okehampton, Devon. It has built up its membership to 3,500 people since it started in 2002. It holds £940,000 in savings and £530,000 in loans and is run by a small office-based team assisted by more than 100 volunteers.

Although it is a smaller credit union, it has still managed to identify significant savings of 15% of its overheads by using CMS Purchasing deals.

When the buying team analysed Plough and Share's expenditure by going through past invoices, they identified the following potential savings:

- Stationery – 39%
- Payroll services 69%
- Fixed line phones – 36% on rental and 66% on calls
- Broadband 46%.



In total, across these four categories alone, Plough and Share will save about £1,900 a year. The savings are considered to be 'easy to achieve' and need little administration work to switch supplier.

The CMS Purchasing team is also investigating whether the credit union can save money on its energy contract, although this is subject to what happens when it moves premises.



And further savings, such as on telephone systems, are expected once more detailed information comes in that allows the buying team to produce an accurate quote.

Within three months of the credit union joining, the CMS Purchasing team had already analysed Plough and Share's expenditure, identified savings and put it in touch with three suppliers.

General Manager Paula Anscomb said: "We were in the process of reviewing our

overheads and, although we thought we had fairly good deals in place, this seemed the ideal opportunity to get an independent assessment.

"The ease of using the initial service made this even more appealing, and the process to change to the suppliers providing the savings (never a relished task!) was simple and pain-free. I would recommend CMS Purchasing to others."

Get in touch

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