



Safeguarding – Cost of living crisis support

Cost of Living Issues

It's a difficult time, residents facing a barrage of challenges, including:

- Energy costs
- Food costs
- Petrol costs
- General inflation
- Recession
- Real term pay reduction
- Unemployment
- Effect on physical and mental wellbeing



Against that background there are challenges for some of our residents and very big challenges for certain residents. They will need varying degrees of help and support.

Support

The 3 councils have put together details of support available, including information on:

- Warm hubs
- Hot lunch/drink
- Energy
- Food/essentials
- Benefits
- Rent/council tax
- Managing money/debts
- Employment
- Mental/physical health



Support Links

Council links:

- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/support-residents
- www.RBWM.gov.uk/here-to-help
- www.slough.gov.uk/benefits-support



Bracknell Forest

- Bracknell Forest Council are taking a proactive approach to supporting residents with financial hardship and have recently established a Financial Hardship Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Forum.
- A webpage was created in August as a signposting tool for residents to use. This provides useful information and links for a range of areas including; benefits, energy support, childcare, food and essentials and many more. The page is being redesigned to be more user friendly and provide more information on areas such as support with broadband, water bills, scam awareness and money saving tips. [Support for residents | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/support-for-residents)
- For those without access to the internet we encourage them to utilise the Community Hub at our Time Square office where our friendly Community Hub staff can provide advice and guidance as well as support residents with referrals where needed. The Community Hub provides access to computers as well as a safe warm space this winter; all Bracknell Forest Libraries also offer this provision. [Community winter hubs | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-winter-hubs)

Windsor and Maidenhead

- The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead has launched a new campaign along with community partners to raise awareness of the support that can help those struggling to cope with the rising cost of living.
- Households across the UK are seeing a squeeze on incomes and an increase in the cost of basic essentials due to a combination of factors, including the increase in the energy cap, the National Insurance rise, higher inflation and the impacts of the Ukraine war.
- As part of the new campaign, 'Here to Help', the council has brought together support from the council and partners onto one dedicated webpage and is encouraging those struggling financially to visit www.RBWM.gov.uk/here-to-help
- For those in need who don't have online access, people can still call 01628 683800 to see what support might be available to them, or otherwise [visit the webpage](#) using the public-access computers available at our libraries.

Slough

One Slough has produced a [newsletter](#) to help residents fight the poverty crisis and further information for [support](#). The resources include information regarding:

- Financial Help with Energy Bills - Advice and Support
- Cost of Living Crisis - Help and Support
- Signposting to other Support
- Quick Tips to Save Energy in your Home
- Slough Borough Council Support for Communities
- Quick Tips for a Warmer Home

Challenges/obstacles - discussion

- Knowing the information and help is there – spreading the word
- Those who aren't digitally enabled – how do we get the information to them?
- Mapping all help available
- Anything else?

