

Rushmoor Borough Council support around the Cost of Living

Rushmoor Voluntary Services

14th December 2022

Emma Lamb



Cost of living support

Overview of Council Support/Approach

- Council Tax Support Scheme
- Community & Partnerships Team – working in partnership

Council Approach

- Members very keen to assess the cost of living impact for this year
- Indicated a desire to ensure that protection is offered to the more vulnerable customers
- Government has provided a lot of direct support to assist energy bills
- Council distributed a range of Government funding



Council Tax Support

- Historically to focus on the arrangements for providing Council Tax Support and overview of the scheme's effectiveness
- Motion of Council in April extended the Group's remit this year to consider "cost of living impact" on local residents
- Group met in August & October agreed a plan and an approach to recommend to Cabinet
- Full review of the scheme to protect the most vulnerable
- Mirror the welfare benefits announced in the budget

Cost of Living Government support so far 22/23

- **Energy Bills Support Scheme doubled to a one-off £400:**
 - Households will get £400 of support with their energy bills through an expansion of the Energy Bills Support Scheme.
- **£650 one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means tested benefits:**
 - More than 8 million households on means tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 this year, made in two instalments.
- **One-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment**
 - Pensioners are disproportionately impacted by higher energy costs, and many low-income pensioner households do not claim the means tested benefits they are entitled to.
 - So pensioner households will receive an extra £300 this year to help them cover the rising cost of energy this winter.
- **£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment**
 - Around six million people across the UK who receive the following disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of £150 from September:
- **£500m increase and extension of Household Support Fund**
 - To support people who need additional help, the Government is providing an extra £500 million of local support, via the Household Support Fund, which will be extended from this October to March 2023.
 - The Household Support Fund helps those in most need with payments towards the rising cost of food, energy, and water bills.

Cost of Living funding – distributed by Rushmoor in 22/23

- Energy Rebates - £150 main Council Tax Energy Rebate and Discretionary Energy Rebate
 - In total we have paid 34,702 residents £4,998,750
- Household Support fund – from HCC and eligibility prescribed by them – focus on families with children and pensioner households
 - 297k food vouchers
 - 42k on Housing crisis cases – usually rent arrears and threat of eviction

Exceptional Hardship Payments 22/23

CTS group members agreed to make some funds available to provide additional support to people receiving Council Tax support who were still suffering financial hardship.

- Average award £280
- Current spend £16,505. Expecting higher level of applications as we get into the Christmas period and new year

Main reasons for granting an award:

- Health issues
- Financial hardship
- Serious debt issues
- Cost of Living impact

Cost of Living – Working with partners

- Supporting Communities Partner Working Group – co-ordinating partner response
- Signpost, share and promote existing support to those who need it most
- Council website/Arena magazine
- Government website - [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)
- Hampshire County Council - [Homepage \(connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk\)](#)
- [Cost of living crisis information \(vividhomes.co.uk\)](#)



Summary of Issues and Impacts identified

- Travel costs – Partners concerned about impact on staff & volunteers
- Children and vulnerable families
- Older & Vulnerable Adults – Concern about residents with access issues and those who are digital excluded
- Increasing numbers presenting with mental health issues – concern for staff
- Discrepancies in utility companies and how they respond to people

Council website

Cost of living help

Home > Housing, benefits and support > Cost of living help

Housing, benefits and support

Cost of living help

- Help with bills
- Help with clothing
- Food and food banks
- Warm and welcoming spaces
- Helpful advice and support
- Homelessness and urgent housing need
- Claiming support and benefits
- Looking for a home
- Housing problems
- Help and advice for landlords
- Homelessness and urgent housing need
- Council tax support
- Local Housing Allowance (LHA) for private tenants
- Changes that could affect your benefits
- Benefits advice and support
- Help to adapt or improve your home
- Benefit and housing fraud
- Bringing empty properties back into use
- Housing and Homelessness Strategy

Help with bills

You may be able to get help with your heating and other bills.

Help with clothing

Where to go if you need clothing for you and your family.

Food and food banks

There are a number of places in Aldershot and Farnborough where you can get food for you and your family.

Warm and welcoming spaces

Places in Aldershot and Farnborough where you can go to keep warm and socialise.

Helpful advice and support

Organisations that can help you with cost-of-living advice and support.

Homelessness and urgent housing need

If you are at risk of losing your home, or are homeless, we can help with advice and support.



Help with clothing



Church of the Good Shepherd

Sand Hill, Farnborough GU14 8ER

Olive Branch: children's clothing exchange

Open every Thursday 9.30am to 11.30am, term-time only

[Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough : Olive Branch](#)



Community Grub Hub

2a Windsor Way, Aldershot, GU11 1JG

Community Wardrobe: second-hand clothing and shoes. Occasional school uniform giveaways

Open every Tuesday 10am to 4pm

[Community Grub Hub | Facebook](#)



Hampshire
Libraries

Coat Exchange

**You don't have to take a coat if you bring one.
You don't have to bring a coat to take one.**



Help with food - Aldershot



Community Hub Grub

2a Windsor Way, Aldershot
GU11 1JG

Every Tuesday 10am to 4pm

Access to food, household
and personal hygiene items

No referral needed

No deliveries

[Community Grub Hub |
Facebook](#)



The Vine - Community Cupboard

The Vine Centre, 33 Station
Road, Aldershot GU11 1BA

Food and personal hygiene
essentials - open to anyone to
access whether to make
donations or to receive items
that they need.

Monday 10am-3pm, Wednesday
9am to 12pm and Thursday
9am to 4pm

[Community Cupboard - The
Vine Centre](#)

[The Vine Centre | Facebook](#)



Salvation Army

1 North Lane, Aldershot
GU12 4QE

Emergency Foodbank

Every Tuesday 10am to
midday

[Aldershot | The Salvation
Army](#)

Help with food - Farnborough



Church of the Good Shepherd
Sand Hill, Farnborough GU14 8ER

No Questions Asked Bags

A bag of food essentials for collection every
Friday, 10am to midday

Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough
: 'No Questions Asked Bag'

Larder Foodbank

Requires a professional referral to access food
essentials delivered Mon/Wed/Fri to
Farnborough residents only

Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough :
Foodbank

St Peter's Church

60 Church Ave,
Farnborough GU14 7AP



The Hub After School Play Café

A drop in café for families with primary aged
children Tuesdays during term time 3.45pm -
5.30pm. Affordable cakes and free hot drinks. A
discounted packed tea is also available to
purchase. Space to play and chat.

<https://www.stpetersfarnborough.org.uk/kids>

Meet & Eat

A lunch for seniors on the first and third
Wednesdays of the month - 12.30pm

£3 per person

Social Groups – St Peters Farnborough

Help with food - food bank and food apps

Farnborough Food Bank (Trussell Trust)

Christ Church Cove, 55 Cove Road Farnborough,
GU14 0EX

Short-term support with food essentials - access to support requires a professional referral.

[Farnborough Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)



Olio App

Connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. OLIO can also be used for non-food household items.

[OLIO - The #1 Free Sharing App](#)

OLIO

Too Good To Go App

Find reduced food near you - an anti-food waste app lets you rescue delicious, unsold food from businesses to save it from going to waste.

[Too Good To Go](#)



Warm and Welcome - Aldershot

Open House at Park Church

- Open coffee morning every Tuesday, 10.30-11.45am.
- [Open House - Park Church, Aldershot](#)

Aldershot Warm Hub at Salvation Army in North Lane

- Every Tuesday, 9.30am to 1pm
- [Aldershot | The Salvation Army](#)

Cosy Hut at The Vine Centre

- Chat with friends, charge your phone, access support or read a magazine or book.
- Refreshments and soup available every Wednesday & Thursday, 10am - 4pm
- Email: info@thevinecentre.org.uk

Warm and Welcome - Farnborough

Altogether at Farnborough Baptist Church

- Every Friday from 10.30am to early afternoon. Drop in for coffee, conversation, games and crafts and stay for a soup lunch around midday.
- [What's coming up | Farnborough Baptist Church](#)

Warm Welcome Lounge at St Peter's Parish Centre

- Every Thursday (starting 17th November), 3-8pm upstairs
- Email support@stpetersfarnborough.org.uk or call 01252 513111 for information

Footprints soup and coffee afternoon at St John's Church

- Every Wednesday, 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- [St. John's Church Cove - Parish of Cove](#) or [\(1\) Parish Of Cove | Facebook](#)

Helpful advice & support

Energy supplier grant funds and advice

Government support

HCC Hitting the Cold Spots: fuel/energy advice

Park Mobile Homes - Warm Home Discount

Vivid Plus

CAP

Helping your health

In difficult times it's hard to focus on your health and wellbeing. With added financial strain this can make things more difficult and feel overwhelming.

Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, maintain a healthy weight and become healthier. There are self-led and organised walks - for a list of walks available email communitydevelopment@rushmoor.gov.uk and ask for your copy. Copies are available here today.

Questions?

