

Communities Network

Local Welfare Support and Cost of Living Update

24th November 2022

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Find help with cost of living | Leicestershire County Council

- [Citizens Advice](#) Services – jointly delivered and managed. Additional money and debt support.
- **Signposting and Community Support Service, Household Support Fund, Warm Homes service.**
- [SHIRE Community Grants](#) are available for community projects which help improve the lives, health, and wellbeing of vulnerable or disadvantaged people and communities in Leicestershire.
- [First Contact Plus](#) service is an online tool which helps adults in Leicestershire find information about a range of services all in one place.
- [Community transport](#) runs accessible bus services and Dial-a-Ride in each district and gives communities access to transport for residents to access local amenities.

Signposting and Community Support Service

- Helps people in hardship with **furniture and electrical goods**, as well as providing emergency short-term food and fuel support to people in crisis.
- Referrals to the **Leicestershire and Rutland Reuse Network and Charity Link** for hardship support with furniture and white goods.
- **The Bridge** (East Midlands) and district councils provide emergency food and fuel support.
- Government funding has provided additional resources over the last two years.

Household Support Fund

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is providing Leicestershire County Council with £3.6m Household Support Fund. The fund runs from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- The £1.5m for food & fuel vouchers will be split in half; the first running from Oct until it is used; and the second starting in Jan 2023 until used. 1 application allowed per household in each half of funding period.
- Primarily used to support households in the most need with **food, energy and water bills**. Aswell as to support households with **essential costs** related to those items and with wider essential costs.
- Key areas of support are; **Food vouchers for eligible children in receipt of free school meals c£1,750k; Referrals for support with food and fuel vouchers c£1,500k; and Support for Third Party Organisations c£200k.**

Enabling access to hardship support

- People, as well as voluntary groups and public sector organisations, can make donations and refer people for support;
- Household Support Fund; www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/assessment-and-eligibility-for-care-and-support/household-support-fund – **any organisations wanting to register should email: householdsupportfund@leics.gov.uk**
- Charity Link; <https://charity-link.org/information-for-professionals/>
- Leicestershire and Rutland Reuse Network; <https://leicester-shire-reuse-network.co.uk/>

Any Questions ?