

# COST OF LIVING

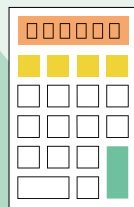
- Help
- Advice
- Grants
- Support

With spiralling energy bills, food prices and other essential costs we know that many households in our district will be struggling.

Updated February 2023



[www.warwickdc.gov.uk](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk)



**We would like to signpost you to the government and local support packages available, as well as professional organisations who are able to offer advice and assistance during these difficult times.**

Further contacts and useful tools for calculating benefit entitlement, budgeting and details of advice and support are available at **[www.warwickdc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/costofliving)** this includes help with: -

- Benefits and Rent
- Water bills
- Gas and electric bills
- Food Support
- Financial Advice and calculators
- Family and childcare
- Free school meals
- Housing
- Health and Wellbeing
- How to access Citizens Advice

## Government support

**Eligible households in Warwick District should already have benefitted from the following packages of payments.**

**£650 cost of living** payment for low-income households who are receiving benefits including Universal Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Pension Credit.

**Winter Fuel Payment up to £300** - for people born on or before 26 September 1956.

**£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment**

**A £150 non-repayable council tax rebate** - for all households that are liable for council tax in bands A to D in England.

**Government Energy Bill Support Scheme** - £400 reduction on energy bills to all households regardless of income.

**The government has announced that further Cost of Living Payments** will be made between spring 2023 and spring 2024. These payments are:

- up to £900 for people on an eligible low-income benefit
- £300 for pensioner households

- £150 for people on an eligible disability benefit

For further details of these and other cost of living support schemes available visit **[www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living)** or talk to **Citizen's Advice**

## Other support

### Transport

**VASA South Warwickshire** - Volunteer drivers can take passengers to medical and other appointments, groups, activities and day care charging a small mileage and admin fee. **Tel:** 01789 262880

**Stagecoach Buses** - Single journeys capped at £2\* Starts 1 January 2023 until 30 June 2023.

**Digital/Internet** access and IT equipment - support is available from your local community centres (listed below) and also from the Warwickshire Library Service **[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/youcanonline](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/youcanonline)**

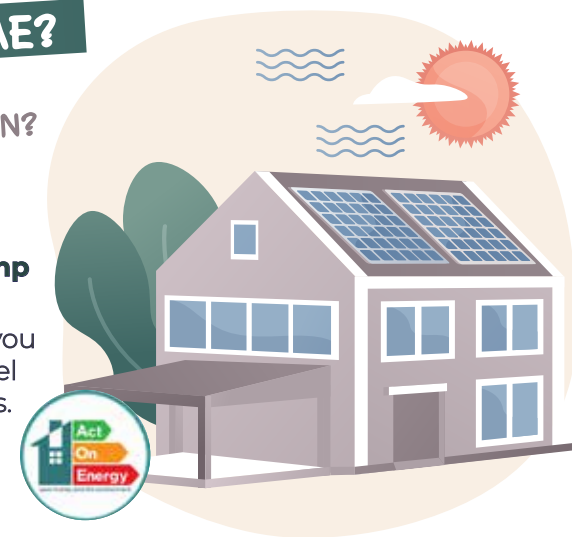
## ARE YOU ON A LOW INCOME?

OR IS THERE A PERSON IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WITH A HEALTH CONDITION?

**You may be able to have free insulation, heating improvements, solar panels or an air source heat pump to help reduce your energy bills.**

Free help and advice is also available if you are struggling to pay your bills, are in fuel debt as well as help with hardship funds.

**Contact Act On Energy today:**  
**[www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)**  
**0800 988 2881**



## Warwick District Council Support

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Households on a low income including the self-employed may be entitled to a reduction in their Council Tax.

### Discretionary Housing Payments

These are payments to help pay your rent if you get housing benefit or the housing element of universal credit and the amount you receive does not cover your full rent.

### Housing Benefit

Housing benefit was replaced by Universal Credit in 2018, however you may still get benefit to help you to pay your rent if you are state pension age or are living in temporary accommodation or accommodation where care and support is being provided.

### Financial Inclusion Team

The Council's team can provide a variety of support to our customers living in our council homes, this includes advice on rent payments, benefits, budgeting, charity applications, foodbank vouchers and fuel poverty.

Further information is available by visiting [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/costofliving) or calling the following numbers:

### Council tax and benefits

01926 456760

### Housing and homelessness support

01926 456129

### Help with your finances (Council tenants)

01926 456454/456336

**The Council offices at Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa CV32 5HZ** are open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30am for walk-ins and appointments.

## Help with food and welfare

Open to anyone struggling to put food on the table regardless of benefit entitlement. To request a voucher that to be used at your local foodbank listed below or for more information, **Tel:** 07850 293383 or **Email:** [info@warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

### St Margaret's Church

Chapter House, Church Close,  
Whitnash CV31 2HJ  
Open Mondays 11am to 1pm

### Southorn Court, Lillington

The Crest, Lillington,  
Leamington Spa CV32 7PU  
Open Tuesdays 11am to 1pm

### St Mary's Church

St Mary's Road, Leamington  
Spa CV31 1JW  
Open Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm

### St Paul's Church

Leicester Street,  
Leamington Spa CV32 4TE  
Open Thursdays 2pm to 4pm

### The Westbury Centre

Westlea Road,  
Leamington Spa CV31 3JE  
Open Fridays 11am to 1pm

### Saltisford Church

Albert Street, Warwick CV34 4JX  
Open Fridays 1pm to 3pm

### The Kenilworth Centre

Abbey End Car Park, Kenilworth  
CV8 1QJ **Tel:** 01926 855205

### Helping Hands Community

Project offers food and a range of support to local people in need.

9a Althorpe Street, Leamington  
Spa CV31 2AU

**Tel:** 01926 768500

### Soup Kitchen

Monday-Thursday 6.30pm-7.30pm

### Breakfast Club

Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am

### Lillington Community Pantry

Food and community advice for members of The Pantry 11am to 3pm on Thursdays and Fridays. For further information and membership.

**Tel:** 01926 350 800  
or **email** [lillington@thecommunitypantry.org.uk](mailto:lillington@thecommunitypantry.org.uk).

**St John The Baptist** Tachbrook Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 3BN. 01926 289459

**Food Kitchen** - free hot meal to eat in or take away  
Wednesdays 5.30 - 6.30pm

**Food Larder** - free food and toiletries outside the church on Wednesday and Sunday mornings

**Ahmadiyya Food Bank**, Ahmadiyya Muslim Centre, Riverside, Adelaide Rd, Leamington Spa CV32 5AH

**Tel:** 01926 330430 **email** [leamingtonspa@ahmadiyyauk.org](mailto:leamingtonspa@ahmadiyyauk.org)

## Community centres and local support schemes

**Citizens Advice South Warwickshire** offer a range of advice and information relating to benefits, debt, housing, employment, family, consumer, education, tax, law and rights issues.

**Tel:** 0300 330 1183 or **Email** us online

**[www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk/contact/](http://www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk/contact/)**

**Warwickshire Out of Hours Service** on Mondays 5pm-7pm

**Tel:** 0800 995 6047 **[www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk)**

**Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme** helps our most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help.

To enquire or to apply for support, **Tel:** 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182

Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm | Friday 9am - 4.30pm

**Your local community centres** are **warm and welcoming places** that can provide support and assistance with health and wellbeing, employment, financial support, food support, mental health, energy concerns, loneliness and isolation. They can also help you to access the internet and IT.

### **Brunswick Hub**

98-100 Shrubland St, Leamington Spa CV31 3BD **Tel:** 01926 422123

### **Chase Meadow Community Centre**

Narrow Hall Meadow, Warwick CV34 6BT **Tel:** 01926 490845

### **Crown Routes One Stop Shop**

Acorn Court, Stockton Grove, Lillington, Leamington Spa CV32 7NP

**Email:** crownroutes@brunswickhlc.org.uk **Tel:** 07874 865617

**The Gap** 39 Oakwood Grove, Warwick CV34 5TD **Tel:** 01926 494200

### **The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Centre**

Riverside, Adelaide Road, Leamington Spa CV32 5AH

**Tel:** 01926 330430 **Email:** leamingtonspa@ahmadiyyauk.org

**Packmores Community Centre** Lyttelton Rd, Warwick CV34 5EP

**Tel:** 01926 492488

**SYDNI Centre** Cottage Square, Sydenham, Leamington Spa CV31 1PT

**Tel:** 01926 422071

Citizens' Advice hub open Mondays 10am to 1pm by appointment only for those living in CV31.

### **Leamington and Warwick Children and Family Centres**

Advice for families with children aged 0-19 appointments only

**Tel:** 01926 337506 to find your nearest centre.

**Kenilworth Advice Hub** Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth CV8 1QG. Open Thursdays 9.15am to 4pm (for those living in CV8 appointments only) **Tel:** 0300 330 1183

**Shire Hall Advice Hub** Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick Open Wednesdays 9.15am to 4pm for those living in CV34 appointments only. **Tel:** 0300 330 1183

### **Sikh Cultural and Sports Community Centre**

17a-17b Queensway Trading Estate Queensway

Leamington Spa CV31 3LZ **Tel:** 01926 883129

**Heathcote Community Centre**, Cressida Close, Heathcote, Warwick, CV34 6DZ **Tel:** 01926 335228 **Email:** heathcotecentre@gmail.com

**Veteran Contact Point**, Pageant House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4ES **Tel:** 02477 343793 **Email:** contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk

**The Westbury Centre** Westlea Road, Leamington Spa CV31 3JE

### **Myton Church and the Westbury Centre**

Warm Hub Tuesdays 1 - 3pm **Tel:** 01926 419777

**Young People First** Monday and Thursday, 1pm to 3pm Community Café. Food and Fun at Youth Clubs for years 3 to 13 - please call for more information. **Tel:** 01926 450156

## Energy Saving

**Act On Energy** is a local charity providing free help to residents on all home energy efficiency matters. This includes managing fuel debt and access to hardship funds. They also can help with getting funding for those on lower incomes or on means tested benefits and a health condition

**Tel:** 0800 988 2881

**Visit:** [www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)

### Energy and money saving tips and advice

Simple changes to the way you use energy in your home can help save £100s per year. Follow these simple steps to help keep warm and lower your energy bills:

- ✓ Cover draughts to stop the cold getting in
- ✓ Phone your energy provider to see about getting the best tariff
- ✓ Check if you are eligible for help to pay your water bill
- ✓ Give your wardrobe a revamp – lots of thinner layers will keep you warmer
- ✓ Plan events and activities that will keep you moving
- ✓ Turn the thermostat down 1C, ideal temperature is between 18 to 21 C
- ✓ Do at least one less machine wash a week
- ✓ Only boil the water you need
- ✓ Have shorter showers and fewer baths
- ✓ Turn the heating off even if you are popping to the shops
- ✓ Put lids on saucepans while cooking
- ✓ Thick curtains can help keep the heat in
- ✓ Turn off appliances when not in use, instead of leaving on standby

## If your situation is starting to affect your mental health

**Wellbeing for Warwickshire** can help you get information, advice, and the support you need. Able to help if you are feeling low, anxious, or stressed, the phone line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 365 days a year. **Tel:** 0800 616171