

Kirklees Citizens Advice and Law Centre (KCALC) helps over 57,000 people every year via its website, telephone advice line, drop-in contact centres and specialist legal services. We can help people with debt problems, issues with their housing, complications with benefits, queries about their employment rights and much, much more. We help people keep their homes, obtain benefits, challenge employers, get money back for faulty goods, make arrangements to pay back debts, and deal with asylum claims. We can give people in Kirklees peace of mind, restore their confidence and help them move forward in these very challenging times.

With the festive season quickly approaching, it could be a daunting time for those facing hardship this winter. With the ongoing energy crisis, rise in fuel costs, increased food costs and households bills alongside the recent cut to Universal Credit, you may find yourself needing help for the first time, or needing some extra support. Here at KCALC we can help you find the right help that you need, and we've put together some advice below that may help you this winter.

Struggling to heat your home?

The government offer some schemes and discounts to those claiming certain benefits so they can heat their home without worrying if they can afford it. These include the *Warm Home Discount Scheme* (apply through your energy company), the *Cold Weather Payment* and the *Winter Fuel payment* (all criteria and application information is available on www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment). All of these schemes have certain and specific eligibility requirements, but if you're unsure **our advisors can help** access the right discount for you. For some energy savings tips and tricks and advice about how to lower your bills, check out www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy.

Please note that although you may have been eligible for the *Warm Home Discount Scheme* with your old energy company, if they have gone into administration and you have been moved over to a new energy company, you may need to reapply as their eligibility criteria could be different – find out everything at www.gov.uk/warm-home-discount-scheme. If you need more advice, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline at **0808 223 1133** for more information.

Struggling to feed yourself or your family?

Food prices and additional costs have soared in recent months, with major supermarket chains already announcing price increases and some news outlets reporting a possible 5% increase in the months up to Christmas. If you find yourself not being able to afford to feed yourself and your family, you can contact the Local Welfare Provision run through Kirklees Council who can help provide immediate assistance such as food parcels. They can help with food, energy, furniture and more: **Local Welfare Provision team**, 01484 414782 (10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays), lwp@kirklees.gov.uk.

If you need us, see our website at www.kcalc.org.uk, or call our Telephone Advice Line on **0808 278 7896 (Freephone)** open **Monday to Friday, 9am - 4:30pm**.