

Cost of Living Support – help with bills



This easy read document tells you about help you can get if you struggling to pay bills, and information about organisations who could help.



Phone and Broadband: If you get certain benefits you might be able to apply for a [cheaper broadband and phone deals](#) on a social tariff.



Water: If your household is financially eligible, Severn Trent have a [Big Difference Scheme](#) which can help you pay less for your water bill.



Gas and Electricity: The British Gas Energy Trust provides [grants towards energy bills](#) for people on low income. You do not have to be a British Gas customer to apply.



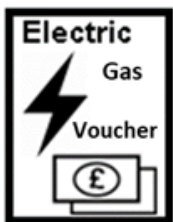
If you are on certain benefits and struggling to pay for your energy, you may be able to pay for your energy directly from your benefits.



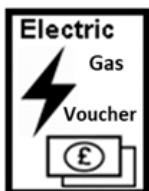
This is called the Fuel Direct Scheme. To find out more information you [can contact your local Job Centre.](#)



The charity [Charis](#) works with several energy suppliers and may be able to help you with grants. They also provide grants for household appliance.



If you pay for your gas or electricity using a pre-payment meter and are at risk of running out of fuel, you can ask your energy supplier for temporary credit.



Some district and borough councils and foodbanks offer fuel vouchers for people in severe need.

You can contact your local council by phone
or visit their websites for more information:



- [Ashfield District Council](#)
01623 450000



- [Bassetlaw District Council](#)
01909 533533



- [Broxtowe Borough Council](#)
0115 917 7777



- [Gedling Borough Council](#)
0115 901 3901



- [Mansfield District Council](#)
01623 463463



- [Newark and Sherwood District Council](#)
01636 650 000



- [Rushcliffe Borough Council](#)
0115 981 9911



Rent: If you need help with rent payments, including arrears, deposits and advances, and you are receiving Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit, you may be able to [apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment](#).



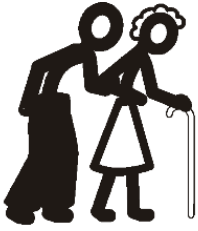
If you have rent arrears – which means you are behind in paying your rent – [the housing charity Shelter](#) may be able to help you.



TV Licence: The TV Licensing authority offer a [Simple Payment Plan](#) which lets people on low incomes pay for their licence fortnightly or monthly.



To be eligible for this plan, you need to be referred by non-profit organisations such as charities and your local authority money advice services.



You can [apply for a free television licence](#) if you, or someone you live with, is over 74 and in receipt of Pension Credit.

Concessionary rates are available



You can [apply for a half-price television licence](#) if you, or someone you live with, is blind or severely sight impaired.



Some residents of care homes and sheltered accommodation are entitled to an “[Accommodation for Residential Care \(ARC\) concessionary TV Licence](#).”



To be eligible for this highly reduced rate, both the premises and the resident need to meet qualifying criteria. The manager or warden should be able to assist.

Links in this document

Phone and Broadband social tariffs

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/digital-connectivity/social-tariffs-cheaper-broadband-and-phone-packages

Severn Trent Big Difference Scheme

stwater.co.uk/my-account/help-when-you-need-it/help-with-paying-your-bill/big-difference-scheme

British Gas Energy Trust grants

britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/who-can-apply

Charis Grants

charisgrants.com/individuals

Ashfield District Council

ashfield.gov.uk

Bassetlaw District Council

bassetlaw.gov.uk

Broxtowe Borough Council

broxtowe.gov.uk

Gedling Borough Council

gedling.gov.uk

Mansfield District Council

mansfield.gov.uk

Newark and Sherwood District Council

newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Rushcliffe Borough Council

rushcliffe.gov.uk

Find your local Job Centre Plus

jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk

Discretionary Housing Payments

gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments/claiming-discretionary-housing-payments

Shelter – dealing with rent arrears

england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/eviction/how_to_deal_with_rent_arrears

TV Licence – Simple Payment Plan

tvlicensing.co.uk/faqs/FAQ305

TV Licence – Free for over 74s on pension credit

tvlicensing.co.uk/cs/over-75/apply-for-free-licence.app

TV Licence – Half price for blind / severely sight impaired people

tvlicensing.co.uk/cs/pay-for-your-tv-licence/blind/index.app

TV Licence – Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) Licence

tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/business-and-
organisations/residential-care-homes-aud14

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Cost of living support | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/cost-of-living-support

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