

Cost of Living support and information

People across Derbyshire may have concerns about the impact that recent cost of living increases may have. There is a lot of support available to help Derbyshire residents, and we have outlined below some of the support channels that people can access to get the help they need.

Welfare and benefits Advice

If you have concerns about your financial situation there is help available. Our welfare rights team can help you to find out about the benefits you may be entitled to and how to claim. You can email the team on welfarebenefits@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone 01629 531535.

For more information visit [Welfare benefits - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Derbyshire Discretionary Fund

The Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF) can provide grants or emergency cash payments if you are in urgent need of financial help following a crisis or disaster and support you to continue to live independently or cope with exceptional pressure when you have no other source of funding.

The fund may support you to resolve your immediate difficulties and also puts you in touch with other support and services so its less likely to happen again. You can apply for the grant by telephone on 01629 533399.

For more information visit [Derbyshire Discretionary Fund \(DDF\) - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Household Support Fund grants

Households facing financial hardship can apply for a grant for help towards their food, energy and essential living costs.

Households can access a maximum of 2 payments in the period October 2023 to 31 March 2023

Payments are worth £64 per household plus an extra £20 will be provided for each partner or spouse and each dependent child aged under 19.

More information: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

All payments must be made before the fund closes at the end of March 2023.

You can apply to receive support from the Household Support Fund by telephone. Please tel: 01629 533399

Council Tax

You can claim help with your council tax bill from your local district and borough council. You may be able to reduce your bill by applying for a discount on your bill, for example if you live alone or if someone who lives with you is permanently disabled. Discounts are based on your circumstances, not your income or savings.

You may also be able to claim means-tested council tax support if you are on benefits or another form of low income. In exceptional cases of hardship, your local district or borough council may be able to give additional discretionary help.

For further information. Please contact your local borough or district council.

Housing

If you are worried about not being able to pay your rent this can be a big concern. Citizens Advice have information about rent arrears here -

There is also advice on our website around preventing homelessness - [Preventing homelessness - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Legal Advice

Derbyshire Law Centre are available to provide free, confidential legal advice over issues around housing, debt, immigration, employment and discrimination. For more information on their service, please visit their website - [Derbyshire Law Centre®](#) or telephone 01246 550674

Advisory Services

Citizens Advice can offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information on a wide range of subjects including debt, income maximisation, energy, employment and housing problems. Support is available over the telephone, at local Citizen Advice offices, a range of community Venues and GP surgeries. Derbyshire County Council is a partner in this service.

Visit [Derbyshire Citizens Advice \(derbyshirecab.org.uk\)](#) and click on your local office for more information.

Food

The Feeding Derbyshire Partnership aims to improve accessibility to good quality affordable food and reduce the negative impact of hunger by ensuring projects are inclusive to all and reach those who are in need. Work is supported by Public Health and co-ordinated by Rural Action Derbyshire

For more information visit [Feeding Derbyshire | Rural Action Derbyshire](#) or call 01629 592978

You can find a list of foodbanks across Derbyshire here [Foodbanks in Derbyshire | Rural Action Derbyshire](#)

To check if your child qualifies for free school meals please visit [Free school meals - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Energy Support

Warmer Derby and Derbyshire

If you are looking for impartial advice and practical tips on how to stay warm at home and cut your energy usage, you can call the 'Warmer Derby and Derbyshire' service free of charge. Residents can call for advice about their energy bills, how to make their homes more energy efficient and how to apply for grants for heating systems and insulation. Just call 0800 677 1322 – there are no charges for this call.

Derbyshire Healthy Homes

The Healthy Home project offers people with a long term health condition help with cold homes. The project helps improve home insulation and heating in order to keep your home warm and you healthy.

To find out if you're eligible for the project email: healthyhome@derbyshire.gov.uk

Winter Pressures Single Point of Contact (professionals only)

The Winter Pressure Single Point of Contact is a service for professionals only, to support them to refer and signpost vulnerable residents to essential services and self-help advice this winter. Includes support and advice with cold homes, financial hardship, energy bills, homelessness, food insecurity. This is open until the end of March 2023 and is a single point of contact if you are unsure where to refer someone currently. This service is open to all health professionals, social care practitioners, district/borough stakeholders and voluntary sector partners. For more information, please go to

[Winter Pressures - pathway for professionals - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Or email: healthandwellbeing@derbyshire.gov.uk

Mental Health

For many people, the pandemic has had an impact on their mental health. Feeling anxious, worried or overwhelmed is normal. The good news is that there are lots of things you can do to look after your mental health and wellbeing. The link below has lots of information and sources of support that you can access

[Emotional health and wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Live Life Better Derbyshire

Live Life Better Derbyshire is Derbyshire County Council's healthy lifestyles service that aims to help people make structured, long term changes to improve their health.

This includes free support to stop smoking, lose weight and get more active. [Home - Live Life Better Derbyshire](#)

For more information, please click here www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving