



'Cost of Living Crisis' - Quick Links

July 2023

Contacting Citizens Advice:

Dorset AdviceLine: 0800 144 8848 BCP AdviceLine: 0808 2787 939

National website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk AND:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

Local offices offer face to face, phone and email advice – for details of office locations, opening hours and email enquiry forms, go to:

- **Bridport & district:** <https://bridportca.org.uk/>
- **Central Dorset** [Weymouth, Dorchester, Sherborne, North Dorset]:
<https://centraldorsetca.org.uk/>
- **East Dorset and Purbeck:** <https://edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/>
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole:** <https://www.citizensadvicebcp.org.uk/>

Benefit checks:

General benefit information: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/>

Help to Claim: national Citizens Advice helpline for Universal Credit claims: **0800 144 8444**.

Benefits check: Make sure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to. There are three reliable online 'calculators' – follow the links from the Government website -

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>

GrantS: Household Support Fund 4 DORSET next opens 2 August 2023:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/coronavirus/support-for-residents/household-support-fund>

BCP next open 17 July - 11 August 2023: <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Communities/Cost-of-living-help/Household-Support-Fund.aspx>

Also search for **grants for individuals** in need on **Turn2Us:** <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

and locally: <https://www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org/apply-for-a-grant/grants-for-individuals/>

Government support for cost of living: For overview of help and support go to the **Help for Households** campaign: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Govt Support from April 2023 - Cost of living Payments:

Low income: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#low-income-benefits-and-tax-credits-cost-of-living-payment>

Disability: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#disability-cost-of-living-payment>

Pensioner: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#pensioner-cost-of-living-payment>
Help with Energy Bills: The Energy Price Guarantee is extended until 30 June 2023 - see overview: <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills>

Money saving tips and ways to reduce your bills

Help with Energy bills (grants etc) from Ofgem:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/reduce-your-bills-schemes-and-grants>

Social tariffs [discounted bills / packages available to people in receipt of certain benefits e.g. Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance]:

Ofcom: cheaper broadband and phone packages: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Water - help with bills:

Wessex Water: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/your-account/help-paying>

Bournemouth Water: <https://www.bournemouthwater.co.uk/bills/need-help-paying-your-bill/>

Other money saving tips

Citizens Advice – if you are struggling with living costs:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

Money Saving Expert – cost of living crisis 'survival guide' 90+ ways to save money:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/>

Money Helper – living on a squeezed income:

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/way-forward/squeezed-income>

Other ways to increase income /save money

Healthy Start Scheme: vouchers for pregnant women and families with a child under 4 on low income to buy basic food items. <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>

Help with health costs: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/>

Childcare: <https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare> [includes getting help with costs]

Debt Advice: Local Citizens Advice can offer a Debt Assessment; referral for fuller debt advice may involve a wait due to demand on services. Other **FREE** sources of debt help:

Citizen Advice national debt helpline: 0800 240 4420

National Debtline: 0808 808 4000 <https://nationaldebtline.org/>

StepChange: 0800 138 1111 <https://www.stepchange.org/#>

PayPlan: 0800 280 2816 <https://www.payplan.com/>