

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 OCTOBER 2022**

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT LEAFLET

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report summarises the Cost of Living Support leaflet, its purpose and how it can be used.

Summary

2. The leaflet was initially compiled in 2020 to provide information for residents during the Covid 19 pandemic.
3. The leaflet was updated in April of this year to provide information for Ukrainian guests residing in Darlington.
4. Moving forward this leaflet will become a signposting document for diverse use across the Local Authority and partners.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that this report is received for information and comment.

**Seth Pearson
Director Darlington Partnerships**

Background Papers

Cost of Living Support Leaflet

author : Sarah Small Ext 5757

S17 Crime and Disorder	None
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Health and Well Being	Improved health through energy efficiency advice of warm homes
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Home energy efficiency & support is a focus of this leaflet
Diversity	No impact
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	Stronger Communities
Key Decision	None
Urgent Decision	None
Corporate Plan	This report details the services & support available to residents which is key element of the Council's plan to 'Support the most vulnerable in the borough'.
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report could be provided to care leavers for signposting.

MAIN REPORT

Covid 19 Version

6. In 2020 the cost of Living Support Leaflet was compiled to ensure local residents were aware of the services available to them throughout the pandemic. This included advice around volunteer services to help the clinically vulnerable, support with food, mental health, household advice around debt management, fuel providers and benefits.
7. Contact details were provided for support with council services including the tenancy sustainment team, private sector housing team and the council tax and benefits team.
8. Information around the Uniform Scheme and Darlington Baby Bank were detailed again to ensure residents were aware of the provision available to them.
9. The leaflet also provided a list of other service providers in Darlington for families, which included organisations such as MIND and DAD.

Ukrainian Guests

10. In April 2022 the existing leaflet was updated for our Ukrainian guests, providing additional information which included immigration support services, contacts for benefit advice and claims, and information about the British Red Cross and their role.

11. This leaflet was given out to all the Ukrainian individuals and families who came to Darlington, helping not only the guests but also their host families.

Current Publication

12. At present the leaflet is being updated to include more information about services external to the council, their offer and best way to make contact.
13. This leaflet would be available to be used by DBC staff and external partners as a “one stop” document for residents, to help with signposting to relevant services and organisations covering a vast array of provision available in Darlington.
14. The Leaflet will be made available on the DBC website so it can be constantly updated.