

## Support Signposts

We understand that the cost of living crisis is affecting so many people, and so we have pulled together some links across North Somerset and Somerset, with the aim of signposting available support. If you become aware of any other support that becomes available please email your school with the details so that we can share with others.

### FoodBank

<https://westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk/>

<https://highbridgearea.foodbank.org.uk/>

**The Government Warm House Discount** <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/low-income>

**Children in need - family fund** - <https://www.familyfundservices.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

**StepChange** offers free, online debt advice and money guidance, with the widest range of debt solutions to help [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)

**Warm Spaces** is an online directory of 'Warm Banks' where anyone in need of warmth can find a place to share that will provide warmth, welcome & help. <https://warmspaces.org/spaces>

### Domestic Alternative Fuel payment

Government confirms details of a single £200 payment to help households in Great Britain that use alternative fuels like heating oil, LPG gas etc. Most households eligible for the AFP support in Great Britain, will receive payment automatically via their electricity supplier in February, with no need to take any action. Those households who will need to apply for the AFP, for example because they do not have a relationship with an electricity supplier, will be able to do so in February, through the same GOV.UK portal as the one that will be used to apply for support under the EBSS Alternative Funding scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/alternative-fuels>

### Free School Meals

If your family is on a low income or in receipt of benefits your children may be eligible for free school meals. Follow the below links to make an application for each child in the family. If successful your child will be able to receive free school meals throughout their primary and secondary education and may also receive financial help from the school to support costs of trips and extra curricular activities.

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals>

<https://services.somerset.gov.uk/application-for-free-school-meals>

**Turn2us** has a directory of grants for individuals as well as a helpful Benefits Calculator so you can check if you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to. <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>

**Burnham and Weston Energy** - book a **free** home consultation for a member of the community team to make free energy saving measures to your home and advise on how to reduce your energy consumption and bills. [www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk/home-energy-advice/](http://www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk/home-energy-advice/)

## **North Somerset**

### **North Somerset Council advice**

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/benefits-support/cost-living-advice-guidance>

### **Somewhere to Go Weston-super-Mare**

<https://somerwheretogo.org/>

**North Somerset Welfare Provision Scheme** -The welfare provision scheme can give you short term financial help in a crisis. The amount of help that can be given will depend on your circumstances.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/benefits-support/welfare-provision-scheme>

**North Somerset - Better Health** - <https://www.betterhealthns.co.uk/information/food-support/>

### **Hope Church - Uniform exchange**

2 The Scaurs, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 6QP

Providing an exchange system for preloved and outgrown good quality school uniforms for our North Somerset Schools.



@hopeuniformexchange

## **Somerset**

### **Somerset County Council advice**

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/cost-of-living-support-in-somerset/>

**Somerset Household Support Fund** - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund/>

**Hands of change - Burnham and Highbridge.** Community run charity providing food and essentials to those in need <https://www.neighbourly.com/project/63277279cd65ce802b2258cd>

**Community Council for Somerset** will put you in touch with your Village and Community Agent who provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for people in Somerset.

[www.somersetagents.org/](http://www.somersetagents.org/)

**Mind in Somerset** can help if you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed by the cost-of-living crisis.

[www.mindsomerset.org.uk](http://www.mindsomerset.org.uk)

**Citizens Advice Somerset** helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice. They have produced a Cost of Living **Increase Guide** and there's a helpful page on their website here which includes information on grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills. [www.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk)

*These links are correct as of 19/10/2023*

