

Help for families

- **Free school meals** are available for all children in reception and years 1 & 2 of state-funded schools, as well as for families receiving benefits. Check with your child's school directly
- **Help with uniform costs** for children entitled to free school meals and starting reception or a new school
- **NHS Healthy Start Scheme** may help you buy healthy food and milk if you are on a low income and over 10 weeks pregnant or have a child aged under 4
- **Free early education** and childcare for eligible children aged 2-4

Help with food

- **Wandsworth Foodbank** has welcome centres in Battersea, Clapham Junction, Furzedown, Nine Elms, Putney, Roehampton and Southfields. Local agencies such as schools, Citizens Advice or housing associations can refer you to your local centre

Get advice

- **Citizens Advice Wandsworth** is a local charity providing free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on a range of issues including benefits, employment, housing, debt and tax. They can also help with advice in other languages. Find out more at cawandsworth.org/get-advice or call **freephone 0808 278 7833**
- **Thinking Works** can provide energy saving advice for Wandsworth residents with a Winter Warmth home visit or telephone session
- **Step Change** is a national debt charity which offers free debt advice and support to help people get their finances back on track
- **Work Match** is the council's employment service offering advice, training and support to help you find work with a wide range of employers in Wandsworth

More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub or call freephone 0808 175 3339

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Cost of Living Support



YOUR GUIDE FROM
WANDSWORTH COUNCIL –
HOW TO GET HELP AND ADVICE



More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub
or call freephone 0808 175 3339



Message from the council Leader

Dear resident

The Cost of Living crisis is hitting Londoners hard. Too many local people are wondering how to make ends meet this winter.

Wandsworth Council is on your side and here to help residents cope during this challenging time.

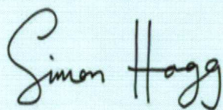
We want to create a fairer Wandsworth, so we've allocated £5 million to provide a Cost of Living support package for residents – the biggest of any council in London. The funding for this has come from council reserves so that we can keep the same low Council Tax, an important step because Council Tax hits those on low income the hardest.

Our Cost of Living measures include:

- £150 winter Cost of Living payment to all eligible households
- A network of Warm Spaces open across the borough
- £1 million fund to help residents experiencing hardship
- Free school uniforms for hard-pressed families
- £200,000 fund for community organisations helping residents

Please get in touch to make sure you get the support you need. Call our hotline today on **0808 175 3339** and our advisers will help. Our online Cost of Living hub can also direct you to the support that's available from the council and our partners.

Let's look out for each other in the difficult times ahead.



Simon Hogg

Leader of Wandsworth Council



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Warm Spaces

Wandsworth Council is providing a network of **Warm Spaces** across the borough where you can get a hot drink, access the internet or just keep warm for a few hours.

Libraries, children's centres, community centres and venues managed by the local voluntary sector are all opening up to provide warm places to spend time.

As well as a warm welcome, you'll be offered hot drinks, snacks and in some locations a range of events and activities.

All libraries also offer free internet and computer terminals so you can get online to find further help and advice.



Help with household bills

- One-off crisis payments in the form of vouchers for food and fuel are available through the council's **Crisis Assistance** scheme
- The **Warm Home Discount Scheme** could reduce your winter electricity bill by £150
- If you're on a low income you may be eligible for **Council Tax reduction** or a **Discretionary Housing Payment** to help with costs
- **Winter Fuel Payments** of between £100 and £300 can help pensioners pay heating bills. Plus, an extra one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment is available this winter

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