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Welfare to Work & the Impact of the Cost of Living Crisis



Graduated in 2011 -
York St John University

Welfare to Work –
Work Programme –
ingeus

Welfare to Work –
Work & Health
Programme – Northern
Rights

Trustee of Vocational
Rehabilitation
Association 2020



About Northern Rights

We are an award winning North East social enterprise, created, managed and designed by people from the region in 2012. We are passionate about providing tailored individual support for the people of the North East.

We provide personal development and employment support services to disadvantaged people, in particular those with health issues, who require a personalised approach to removing constraints, enabling the move into sustained employment.



Over the past year food and energy prices have been rising markedly.
Particularly gas costs due to the war in the Ukraine.
Further pressures on costs are the global recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Office of National Statistics reports:

- More than 1 in 3 are struggling to afford their rent / mortgage – 1,250 recorded as homeless in N.East, 360 are children (Shelter Jan 2023) – likely to be higher as sofa surfing not documented
- Prices of food and non-alcoholic drinks are rising the fastest they have for 45 years
- More than half of adults (68%) are using less fuel, such as gas & electricity in their homes due to the rising cost of living (96% using the heating less, 43% using the washing machine less, 38% using the bath/shower less, over 30 % are cooking less)
- Of those affected by the rising cost of living are spending less on food shopping and essentials (52%)



Cost of Living & It's Impact on Welfare to Work

Increase in safeguarding concerns:

- Neglect of self care
- Food Poverty
- Energy Poverty
- Domestic Violence
- Crime
- Substance misuse
- Suicide

- Debt
- Risk of homelessness
- Increased mental ill health
- Increased physical ill health

Discussion....

Have you noticed an impact
because of the cost of living?

On your clients? On yourself? In
your workplace?

What have you noticed?



Government Support



**BUDGET
2023**

Prior to March Budget in 2023

- Cost of Living Payments - £650, made in 2 instalments during 2022 to low-income households
- Energy Bills Support Scheme - £400 rebate to all domestic customers
- Council Tax Rebate – all households in bands A to D to receive £150 rebate
- Disability Payment – one off £150 paid Sept 2022
- Winter Payment – one off £300 Nov 2022
- Warm Home Discount – one off £150 rebate on energy bills for eligible account holders

Budget 2023

- Low income benefits & tax credits cost of living payments - £301, £301, £300 & £299 over 2023-2024
- Disability Cost of Living Payment - £150 summer 2023
- Continue the Energy Price Guarantee – reducing the unit cost of electricity and gas
- Prepayment customers pay no more than Direct Debit customers – from July 1st
- Childcare support extended – gradual increase, by Sept 2025 there will be 30 free hours of childcare for children from 9 months old
- Fuel duty frozen



- Nexus – Travel Vouchers
- Household Support Fund – one off £150 vouchers – *Northern Rights have given out £5000 worth of vouchers to those in need*
- Trussell Trust Food Banks & Hardship
- Social Tariff – Phone & Broadband packages for those on eligible benefits
- The Good Things Foundation – loaded SIMs with 6 months free data and calling credit – *Northern Rights have given out 140 SIMs and 81 Handsets in the last 10 months*
- The Greggs Foundation – Hardship Fund
- Turn2Us
- StepChange Debt Charity
- Cosaraf – Hardship Grants, household items, basic living expenses, work-education related expenses
- The FireFighters Charity
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI)
- Smartworks – interview clothing
- www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk
- Foundations Independent Living Trust
- Gas Safe Charity
- Shelter
- Together in a Crisis – 12 weeks support, linking to services, housing support, debt
- Local Authority Social Care
- Recovery College
- Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)
- Groundworks
- MIND
- Samaritans
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Welfare Rights
- Community Money Advice Service
- Hebburn Helps
- Local Church Groups – run food banks, clothing exchanges
- Women's Health In South Tyneside (WHIST)

Irish contacts to be confirmed.



“Network like your life depends on it,
because somebodies just might!”