

Keep Safe & Warm This Winter

During extreme weather conditions such as we have been experiencing recently older and disabled people may need a little extra help to stay safe and warm and cope with everyday tasks such as going shopping or collecting pensions or prescriptions. Neighbors can help with these simple tasks, but if you are struggling don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

The government recognizes that paying for extra heat during cold weather can be a struggle, and if you are over 60 years old you could get a **Winter Fuel Payment**. Depending upon your circumstances this payment varies between £125 and £400. If average temperatures fall below zero over a seven day period, anyone on Pension Credit will get an automatic additional "**Cold Weather Payment**", although it can take a while for it to come through. For more information about what you may be entitled to contact;-

Winter Fuel Payments Helpline

Phone Number 0845 915 1515

Text Phone 0845 601 5613

Opening Hours;-

Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 4.30 pm

Doncaster Council has an Energy and Sustainability Section which can give you advice about a variety of initiatives and grants for things such as cavity wall or loft insulation, or help to pay for a new boiler. Households whose members are over 70 years old, or who are on a qualifying benefit such as Disability Living Allowance could benefit from these schemes. For information about what help you could get call 0800 028 1067.

Age Concern has a variety of advice and information leaflets available to help you stay warm and well in Winter. Call The Age Concern Information line (freecall) on 0800 00 99 66.

Dealing With Debt

When fuel costs are high you might be worried about getting into debt, and be tempted not to put the heating on when you need it, to try to save money, but help is available. For help with tackling fuel related debt, or any other kind of debt, you might find it helpful to contact Doncaster West Development Trust.

Doncaster West Development Trust Financial Inclusion Team provides **free** money management advice and guidance to all Doncaster residents as part of the Success Doncaster programme.

We offer a fully accessible service with advisors based throughout the borough to ensure individuals do not have to travel far to meet confidentially with a friendly and professional financial inclusion advisor.

Services we can help you with include:

- Accessing bank & savings accounts;
- Personal & household budgeting;
- General money management advice;
- Debt counselling;
- Assistance to access bank and savings accounts;
- Guidance on affordable credit and insurance products.

Working with local businesses, schools and community organisation, we also provide free money management training. The training can be tailored to suit your organisation and client needs.

Please contact;

Tel 01709 868880

info@dwdt.org.uk

www.doncasterfi.org.uk

You can contact the services mentioned above directly, but if you want help to approach a service or get further information then SYCIL's advocacy worker Helen Butler can support you. Helen can be contacted on 01302 892947 or e-mail Helen.b@sycil.org .