

5 December 2022

www.iow.gov.uk/costofliving

Update - support during the cost of living crisis

As part of the latest round of **Household Support Funding from the Department for Work and Pensions**, Isle of Wight Council will be investing more than £1.1 million in schemes and initiatives targeting households facing hardship, between now and March 2023.

The initiatives will expand on what was offered in the previous funding rounds. It will widen the support available for people in need who may not be eligible for other assistance.

The schemes will be delivered across the Island via our '[connect4communities programme](#)' and will include:

- Food vouchers will be sent out to eligible residents automatically, with no need to apply.
- Discretionary grants to schools to help families with food and weather appropriate clothing. Parents will apply to their child's school to access this.
- Funding to support the Living Well and Early Help Service mobile hub, providing hot meals and a warm space for residents in need.
- Funding to Citizens Advice to provide help with fuel and utility bills. The charity will also use the money to provide a single point of contact for Island residents in need, via its Help Through Crisis Helpline.
- Grants for community and voluntary organisations, as well as town, parish and community councils, to help meet needs within their local communities. More details about these coming soon.
- Funding to establish up to three new community pantries on the Island.

During the previous funding round from April to September 2022 we supported:

- 33 charities and community associations used their community grant funding to support more than 14,000 households
- One-off food vouchers for more than 4,000 eligible households
- Just under 300 households received help with their food and utility bills via Citizens Advice.
- Ongoing support was provided to the Island's network of community pantries, which have more than 600 members collectively. Pantries provide significant benefits for families as they are open to everyone and, in exchange for a membership fee, pantry members can purchase groceries at a much lower cost than supermarkets.

Where appropriate we will be communicating this support with the community and your help to share these messages with your residents would be very much appreciated. We will share more information about this shortly.

Ongoing work

We are continuing to work with stakeholders and local organisations to support Islanders during the crisis.

We have created [cost of living content on our beta website](#). Please share this link or any of these below:

- [Benefits and government support](#)
- [Money worries](#)
- [Worried about energy bills?](#)
- [Food](#)

- [Health and wellbeing](#)
- [Warm spaces](#)

Here are some other key links to share with residents.

- [Isle of Wight Council cost of living information](#)
- [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)
- [Citizen's Advice Isle of Wight](#)
- [The Footprint Trust](#)
- [Directory of Services, Events and Advice on the Isle of Wight - Isle Find It](#)

We are running a winter communications campaign to support residents. Please email abigail.fox@iow.gov.uk if you know of additional useful information.

Holiday Activities and Food programme, Christmas 2022

There are places across the Island for young people from 4 to 16 to enjoy activities and get a hot meal this Christmas holidays.

Some of the providers are new and it would be great to support them by encouraging families to book their young people on to the sessions.

The information is on our website here: [Events \(iow.gov.uk\)](#)

Please share our social media

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Winter vaccinations – the latest from the NHS

Getting vaccinated is an important part of staying well and looking after ourselves and others this winter. If you are eligible, please take up the NHS offer of a free COVID-19 and flu vaccination. For more information go to <https://orlo.uk/uFxut>

On the Island the way you can get your COVID jab is changing. The Riverside Vaccination Centre is closed and you will not be able to book an appointment there.

You can still get vaccinated on the Island at:

Walk-in clinics

- Thursday 8 December, 12pm to 6pm, Sandown Fire Station, East Yar Road, PO36 9AX
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 7.40am to 5.45pm at St Marys Hospital, Newport, PO30 5TG, The St. Mary's Vaccination Hub is in the South Block building, opposite the Duck Pond. Accessible parking is available to the rear of the building, this can be accessed from the Laidlaw entrance. Available until 15 December.

Community Pharmacies and GP surgeries

- Appointments for community pharmacies and other locations can be booked (for any age or dose required) using the National Booking Service on <https://orlo.uk/fQs7L>
- More appointments are added regularly, please keep checking back if you can't find a time that suits you.

Need help to book a COVID jab? Call the Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 helpline on 0300 561 0018 (Open between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm at weekends).

Plan for severe weather

It is going to be very cold this week. All of us have responsibility to plan ahead in case of severe weather events. Our emergency planning team have put together useful information and links about being #WeatherReady and planning for severe weather.

Poster attached and more information [on the council's website](#).

Thank you for your support