

Member Information Sheet



From:	Laura Annandale, Head of Service, Early Help - Children and Families Commissioning
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Relevant ELT & SLT Director/s:	Claire Winter, Executive Director – Children's Social Care
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Date:	15 October 2025
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To:	All Members
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Cost-of-living support available for Somerset residents this winter

A range of support is available to help Somerset residents struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis this winter.

Somerset Council is again distributing funds from the Household Support Fund in partnership with local charities and community groups to offer a broad selection of essential free support measures for local people.

The Government has given Somerset Council £6.74m to spend between April 2025 and March 2026. We distribute these funds, called the Household Support Fund, with the aim to provide immediate, practical help during a time when many are facing financial hardship.

Whether it's food vouchers for children, help with fuel bills, or support for older residents and those with disabilities, the fund ensures that people can access essentials with dignity and ease. It's not just about crisis support - it's about preventing deeper struggles, reducing stress, and helping people stay well, warm, and connected through the colder season.

We've built this year's programme around what we know works - thanks to feedback from our partners, data from previous rounds, and the voices of our communities.

Here's a snapshot of what's coming:

- **Free School Meal vouchers** during school holidays
- **Food, fuel, and essential items** available through an online portal.
- **Emergency grants** for crisis situations, hospital discharge support, and council tax relief.
- **Specialist advice and outreach** from trusted partners like Age UK, Citizens Advice Somerset, and SASP and Thrive.
- **Community hubs** offering warm spaces, meals, budgeting support, and more.

We've made sure the programme is inclusive, with outreach being targeted in areas of deprivation and rural isolation as well as town-centre locations, and support being available both online and in-person to suit all preferences and schedules.

Our website provides comprehensive information on the various schemes, eligibility criteria, and how to apply. All Somerset residents, including individuals and families, are encouraged to explore the support available.

For more information and to access the full range of offers, visit:

www.somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support.

We have developed a toolkit of resources which Members are welcome to download and share in your communities, available [here](#).

Please note that people who do not have access to the internet and wish to access the support available should call 0300 123 2224 and ask for 'cost of living crisis support'.

For more information contact:

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