

Support in Allerdale

SUPPORT FROM YOUR COUNCILS

For support from Allerdale Borough Council go to the council's website www.allerdale.gov.uk or to see the support on offer from Cumbria County Council, go to www.cumbria.gov.uk.

FINANCIAL HELP

Allerdale Citizens Advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call the Allerdale office on 01900 604735.

Free advice on debt, benefits and housing problems, and making sure you're getting all the support you're entitled to. Including advice on struggling to pay your bills.

West Cumbria Community Money Advice: <https://wccma.co.uk/welcome> with offices at the Bridge Centre, Central Square, Workington 01900 62677 and The Hub, 2 Market Street, Cockermouth 01900 821100

If you are struggling with debt then contact for free, confidential, and impartial advice.

Affinity Credit Union: www.affinitycu.co.uk with a local office at Campbell-Savours Way, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 2AB or call 01900 65723 (Workington) or 01900 702841 (Maryport)

Affinity Credit Union is now offering subsidised new saving accounts for those who are suffering hardship due to Covid-19. This is to encourage people to get into the habit of saving for the future but also offering an option to take a loan from Affinity rather than high interest lenders.

Ways to Welfare (Cumbria County Council) - www.cumbria.gov/welfare
This service provides information and signposting to services in your area. Providing information on financial assistance, food, housing and more.

Age UK West Cumbria: 08443 843 843

Provides free information and advice to people aged 50+ in Copeland and Allerdale on a range of issues, including benefits, heating and bills, daily living aids, social isolation, and housing.

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

Community food projects (CFP) are open to all and are not means tested. The majority of the food is surplus from supermarkets, redistributed by an organisation called FareShare. Visiting a CFP can help to lower food bills but also helps the environment. FareShare helps to reduce the amount of food that goes to landfill by redistributing good quality, surplus food, to community groups.

Aspatia Dreamscheme - Rainbow Room, King Street, Aspatia, CA7 3ES

Contact: Email office@dreamscheme.club

Offer: 'Rainbow Pantry' Fridays 10am -4pm and 5pm-7pm, open for everyone. Select food for a donation. See 'Rainbow Room' on Facebook for details.

Flimby Vulnerable Persons Group - Flimby Band Room, Wedgewood Road

Contact: Facebook 'Flimby Vulnerable Persons Group'

Offer: Community food pantry every Friday 10.30am to 12pm.

Harriston Community Food Pantry - Harriston, Aspatia, CA7 2ED

Contact: Phone 07795907985, harristonvillagehall@gmail.com or Facebook 'Harriston Village Hall'

Offer: Food pantry every Tuesday 1-3pm, open to everyone. Weekly food club each Thursday, referrals only. Currently accepting new referrals.

Highfield Community Centre - Highfield Road, Cockermouth, CA13 9JF

Contact: Facebook 'Highfield Community Association'

Offer: Community food pantry on the second and fourth Friday of every month.

Kings Church Meal Share - The Hub, 4 Market Street, Cockermouth

Contact: 01900 821100, admin@kingscc.org, Facebook 'King's Church Cockermouth'

Offer: Open Thursday's 2:30pm for food, pre-prepared meals and debt advice.

Moorclose Community Centre -Needham Drive, Workington, CA14 3SE

Contact: Facebook 'Moorclose Community Centre'

Offer: Regular community food pantries. See Facebook for details.

Northside Community Centre -Trinity Drive, Northside, Workington

Contact: 01900 68739, Facebook 'NC CL'

Offer: Community shop and food pantry. Please see Facebook for details.

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

Silloth Community Hub -Eden Street, Silloth

Contact: Facebook 'Silloth Community Hub'

Offer: Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11am-1pm

Wigton Food Pantry - St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Wigton, CA7 9HU

Contact: wigtonfoodpantry@gmail.com, 016973 42379

Offer: Every Wednesday 11am – 1pm

Workington Derwent Rotary Community Food Pantry

Contact: 07505 243677, email antonymcguckin@talktalk.net, Facebook 'Workington Derwent Rotary'

Offer: Community food pantry the first and third Friday of each month. Contact the group for further details.

HELP WITH FOOD

The North Lakes Foodbank - who can be contacted on 07502311452 - operates across Allerdale at the following locations and times:

Maryport - St Mary's Church, Netherhall Corner, CA15 6LL

Tues/Thurs 12pm - 2pm and Fri 4pm - 6pm.

Cockermouth - Lorton Street Methodist Church, CA13 9RH

Tues/Wed/Thurs 10am - 12pm

Workington - Bridge Centre, Central Square, CA14 3BG

Mon/Wed/Fri 12pm - 2pm

Wigton - Cornerstone Methodist Church, 50 High Street, CA7 9PG

Tues/Fri 10am - 12pm

Healthy Start Vouchers - Go to healthystart.nhs for eligibility

You could be eligible for free vouchers every week to spend on a variety of food and other goods, such as infant formula milk and vitamins. You could qualify if you're on benefits, or if you're pregnant and under 18.

Free school meals - www.cumbria.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If you are on a low income and have children attending school, you may be entitled to free school meals. Check your eligibility and apply online.

BENEFITS & GRANTS

Universal Credit

If you've lost your job or had your hours reduced, then you might be able to claim. Many miss out because they don't know what they're entitled to. You can check by visiting gov.uk/benefits-calculators or if you prefer to talk to someone, you can contact Citizens Advice. If you've not claimed benefits before, you can find out more about it online at understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk

Test and Trace Support payment scheme

You must self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. If you are working and on a low income, you may be entitled to a £500 support payment. For information go to www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/coronavirus/coronavirus-council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support/test-trace-support-payment/.

Winter Warmth Fund - Age UK West Cumbria

If you are aged 60 and over and struggling with the cost of heating your home, you may be eligible for a grant of up to £250. To apply, please contact: Age UK West Cumbria (Allerdale) 01900 844670.

*Please check your eligibility with the organisations listed.

HELP WITH HOUSING

Help with housing/council tax

If you are struggling to pay your council tax, or are at risk of eviction or homelessness, you can find more information on Allerdale Borough Council's website www.allerdale.gov.uk.

If you're having difficulties paying for housing, you should contact your landlord, housing association or mortgage company. Below are your local housing association contacts:

Westfield Housing - Income Management Officer Nicola Pears on 07884752133 or 01900 602906 or email nicola.pears@westfieldha.org.uk

Impact Housing - Contact enquiry@impacthousing.org.uk or 0344 873 6290

Castles and Coasts - Call 01228 635492 or 0800 085 1171, or email the team at financialinclusion@castlesandcoasts.co.uk

Home Group - Have trained Financial Inclusion Partners who can give advice and help you get what's rightfully yours. They can also help complete benefit application forms. Contact 0345 141 4663 or speak to your housing manager.