

Dear All

Please find below the latest local offer round up. This one is focused on finance, council tax discount, benefits and grants, please feel free to share with the families you work with.

### **Benefits**

Are you claiming all the benefits you are entitled to? Martin Lewis Martin Money Tips advises in his programme this week "If you have an income of less than £30,000 and you are struggling, it is worth spending ten minutes on a benefits calculator to see what you are entitled to".

### **Benefit Checker**

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=GMuG8ibs71c>

### **For information on a range of Benefits**

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=TX-nw0boyB0>

### **Council Tax**

Are you entitled to a discount on your council tax?

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-tax/pay-your-council-tax/discounts/>

### **Carers in Beds – Unpaid Carers Grant**

#### **Do you qualify for a unpaid carers grant**

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=atkValTiL1Y>

### **Family Fund**

Provides grants for families on low incomes raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=gCY18PYQd Q>

## **Blue Badge**

Is your child/young person entitled for a blue badge?

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=OOjC8F9yAXU>

## **Concessionary Travel Scheme**

Residents with certain disabilities qualify for a national concessionary bus pass. The pass allows free off-peak travel on most local bus services anywhere in England. The person with the disability can also apply for a companion pass so a parent/carer can travel free with the disabled person at any time within Bedford Borough. *The child with the disability has to be of fare paying age for a parent to apply for a companion bus pass.*

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/service.page?id=VwKA5X738sQ>

## **Contact – The charity for families with Disabled Children**

Help with Energy Bills

[Help with utility bills | Contact](#)

## **FREE Grant Search**

Use the free Grants Search on our website to find the financial support your child needs to live their best life in 2022. You may be eligible for grants to pay for specialist equipment, therapies, housing adaptations and even holidays with your little one. Visit [contact.org.uk/grants-search](https://contact.org.uk/grants-search)

## **Debt and Money Issues**

Dealing with money issues can sometimes be off-putting, but if you don't understand how things like credit or mortgages work, you could end up losing out financially or getting yourself deep in debt. The following pages will give you the information you need to make the right choices, including help to deal with your debt problems, how to avoid losing your home and how to get your finances back into shape.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>

## **Survey**

**Contacts are being ask about how rising energy costs are affecting you.**

### **Why are we asking you to take this survey?**

We know that families with disabled children often experience higher energy costs. This might be due to specialist equipment powered by electricity or extra washing due to continence issues. Some disabled children are less mobile and get colder quicker, and others have health conditions that mean they can't regulate their body temperature.

The [cost-of-living package announced in February 2022](#) was welcome, but none of the measures recognised the higher energy costs facing disabled households. We at Contact are campaigning on a range of measures aimed at helping families with their higher energy bills, but we need your help to make a stronger case for change with government and energy companies

[Please take our survey and tell us your experiences.](#)

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and **there is a chance to win a £100 voucher** if you complete the survey by Monday 21 March.

Your answers will help us call on government and energy companies to help families with their higher energy usage.

[Take survey now](#)

Thank you very much for your help with this important survey

**Kind regards**

**Lorraine Bampton**

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