COST OF LIVING SUPPORT GUIDE

What is the council and its partners doing to support residents?

Many people up and down the country are really struggling, and the situation in Barking and Dagenham is no different.

Times are tough right now, so the Council and community partners are working together to support residents.

From help with sorting finances and making sure people have access to the right benefits, emergency money, and low-cost loans, to linking residents with local food banks and mental health support - there's lots of help available.

While we might not have the answer to everything, residents can speak to someone in their local area who will be there to listen and connect them to support.

How can residents get support?

Face to Face: through council and community buildings, such as Community Hubs, Libraries and more (see these listed in grid below)

Via Telephone: 020 8215 3000

Website: all of the information below and more, can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-of-

<u>living-support</u>

Face to face sites and locations

Opening times

Barking Learning Centre (BLC)

2 Town Square Barking IG11 7NB

Telephone: 020 8724 8725 / 8722

RM6 5NJ Telephone: Hardship schemes: Funds to support vulnerable households most in need of help with the rising living and energy costs such as gas, electric, water and food costs. Additional support also includes white goods, winter clothing, essentials for work related costs such as travel and broadband. In exceptional circumstances residents may be able to get help with housing costs where Housing Benefit, Universal Credit Housing element or DHP (Discretionary Housing Payments) awards are not eligible or applicable. www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support

Library of Things: residents can borrow useful items like drills, sound systems and sewing machines. There are over 30 useful household, DIY and gardening items to borrow from as little as £1.50 per day. Residents can reserve items online, ready to collect from a self-service kiosk in Barking Learning Centre. People on low incomes will be able to sign up for a Concession Membership which offers 25 per cent off borrowing costs. www.libraryofthings.co.uk/barking

Tax Free Childcare: working families with children under the age of 11 could save up to £2,000 a year on childcare costs (or £4,000 if they have a child with a disability under the age of 17). Residents can find out if they're eliqible and sign up at www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Personal Debt support: Debt Free Advice are a charity working in the borough to support people with personal debt, such as credit cards, pay day loans and more. This includes supporting people to get breathing space from their repayments. They are based in the Barking Learning Centre. https://debtfreeadvice.com/find-advice-centre/barking-learning-centre

: residents of Barking and Dagenham can speak to Citizen's advice for help with the cost of living, Universal Credit claim support and information on consumer rights. bdcab.org.uk

HELP WITH FOOD

Free Christmas holiday activities are available for young people who are eligible for free school meals. Includes podcasting and football to arts and crafts, and more. There's something for everyone and each activity includes a free nutritious hot meal. www.lbbd.gov.uk/free-holiday-activities

Free school meals: All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state funded schools in England are eligible for free school meals. If your child is aged 11 to 16, they are also eligible if in receipt of certain benefits. www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefir £4,000 if they have a child with a d Tf1 0 0 1 147.38 277.85 Tm0 G(ww)6(v



Food Banks and Community Food Clubs

Al Madina Mosque Food Qub, Lunch Qub and 2 Community Kitchen

2 Victoria Road, Barking, IG11 8PY

Fridays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Telephone: Christina Rowe on 0208 478-8526

Darul Ummah Goresbrook Food Bank 36 Maple Stead

15	Kingsley Hall Social Supermarket/Cafe	16	London Riverside Church Food Bank	
	Kingsley Hall, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham,		Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, RM9 5PT	
	RM9 5NB			
			Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm	
	Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm		Sunday, 10am to 12pm	
	Telephone: Zaphira on 0208 592 1708		Telephone: Megan Charles/Sandra Smith on	
			0208 593 2241	
17	Marks Gate Community Hub Food	18	Marks Gate Relief Project	
	Qub/Community Kitchen		Community Kitchen/Community Food Qub	
	Rose Lane, Marks Gate, RM6 5NR		Community Supermarket/Cooking Workshop	
	Wednesdays, 11am to 1pm		Rose Lane, Marks Gate, RM6 5NR	
	Talambana Manuan 0200 270 41/5		Mandauta Fridau	
	Telephone: Mary on 0208 270 4165		Monday to Friday	
19	Power House Community Network Food Bank	20	St Thomas Food Pantry	
	Unit 4, 280 Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, RM10 8LP		Burnside Road/Haydon Road, RM8 2PA	
	Tuesday, 10am to 1pm		Mondays, 1pm to 3pm	
	020 8517 5827		Telephone: 208 598 9179	
	admin@phim.org.uk www.phcn.org.uk		·	
21	Thames Community Hub Food Bank	22	The Shed Food Bank	
	Bastable Avenue, Barking, IG11 0LG		522 Goresbrook road, RM9 4XA	
	Fridays, 12pm to 2pm		Thursdays, 12pm to 2pm	
	Telephone: Adele or Molly on 0208 270 6619		Telephone: Father Leigh on 07955 88795	
23	The Source Food Bank Barking Learning	24	Salvation Army	
	Centre, IG11 7NB		240 Ripple Road, Barking, IG11 7DJ	
	Monday to Friday, 11.30am to 1.30pm		Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 11.30am and	
			2pm to 3.30pm	
	Telephone: Anne or Bill on			
	0208 594 2404			

See more food support at $\underline{\text{www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support/help-food}}$



Warm spaces: Together

Hardship schemes: Residents can check if they're eligible for additional support based on their income, including things like utilities (gas, electric, water), food and wider essential costs connected with utilities (such as boiler servicing and repairs – owner occupiers only). Selected household goods essential for cooking and provision of food (cookers, fridges, freezers, pans, utensils) or other related essentials that can support reducing the cost of living can also be considered.

HELP WITH GETTING CONNECTED

National Databank: Eligible residents can access up to six months of free mobile data.

Free wi-fi: there is a full list of sites across the borough where residents can access and use free wifi and computers.

Digital courses are available for anyone who wants to learn skills to get online and digital support sessions are also available at the Adult College.

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Digital champions are volunteers trained to help residents get online. Whether it's A s