



Cost of Living and Welfare Rights

November 2022



Welfare Rights- Who we are?

- Specialist benefit service offering advice, information, advocacy, representation and campaign work.
- Maximise income through benefit entitlement
- 4.9 million raised in additional income in 2021/22
- Adult social care contribution £186K in 2021/22
- 1977 people supported with 2321 different benefit issues in 2021/22



Welfare Rights- Who we support?

- Referrals from any internal RCBC department with a focus on service users from Adult and Children's Social Care, Social Fund and Council Tax Recovery on ANY benefit issue.
- Referrals from any external partner for COMPLEX benefit issues or Appeal work.
- Residents of RCBC or involved with RCBC social care services
- RCBC staff
- welfarerights@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk



Pension Credit Campaign

- 1 million people missing out on Pension Credit nationally
- Completed 1842 benefit checks
- 473 local residents missing out
- Over £587K raised
- eLearning for all staff
- Outcomes have varied from 50p to £170 pw
- Triggered entitlement to Cost of living Payments
- <https://claimmypensioncredit.co.uk/>
- 01642 771166





Council Tax Support Campaign

- Administration of DWP grants has highlighted a number of claimants on low income not claiming CTS. Number of people claiming CTS reduced
- 10 CTS targeted library events
- 6 public health events
- CTS eLearning for staff
- CTS social media campaign





Support for Carers

- Carer Allowance or underlying entitlement to Carers Allowance
- Carer's element or Carers premium
- Carers National Insurance Credits
- Carers Council Tax Discount
- Carers Council Tax Property Exemption



Other support

- Energy Rebate
- Household Support Fund
- Cost of Living Payments
- Warm Home Discount
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Social Fund



Household Support Fund

- New scheme launched for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023
- If you receive Council Tax Support you will be entitled
- One-off £50 payment for households with children, £100 payment for households without children
- If you have received HSF in the past you do not need to apply
- Discretionary scheme for those who are not eligible for the main scheme
- <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/household-support-fund>



Supporting our residents- Money Advice services

Aims to ensure that residents have access to a means of support when they need it most.

- Dealing with Debt
- Benefit entitlement and disputes
- Affordable housing
- Improving Digital Skills
- Accessing Community Banking
- Planning for Retirement
- Budgeting Support
- Help with Utilities

A screenshot of a web page titled 'My Account'. The page features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My Service Requests', and 'Services'. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'Money Advice' with two tabs: 'Service Information' and 'Enquiry'. The 'Enquiry' tab is active. The main content area is titled 'Money Advice service' and contains the following text: 'Redcar & Cleveland Council, along with Redcar & Cleveland Financial Inclusion Group, is committed to making sure that our residents have access to the right money advice at the right time.' and 'Whether it be checking what your benefit entitlements are, helping you deal with debt, or planning for your retirement, this service will point you in the right direction by combining local and national money advice services in one place.'

TOOLS and CALCULATORS coming soon!

Useful links

Benefit calculators

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>

Money Advice portal

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/money-advice-services>

Pension Credit

<https://claimmypensioncredit.co.uk/>

Council Tax Support

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/council-tax-support>

Energy Rebate

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/energy-rebate-claim>

Household Support Fund

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/household-support-fund>

Cost of Living Payments

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

DHP/Social Fund/Housing Benefit

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/benefits-and-support>

Council Discounts/Exemptions

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-discounts-and-exemptions>

Carer Allowance

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

Carers Credits

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-credit>



"A FLOURISHING FUTURE FORGED FROM A PROUD PAST"

OUR VALUES

**KEEPING
COMMUNITIES
AT OUR HEART**

**BOLD
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**CARING
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