



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

Chair:

Surojit Walawalkar

Vice-Chair / Secretary:

Wendy Berry

Treasurer:

John Berry

Administrator:

Luan Malley

Community House

311 Fore Street

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Tel: 020 8373 6228

Email: CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk

Minutes

Meeting: Monday 3rd October 2022

Present: Board members: Wendy Berry (WB) and Bernadette Reigar (BR)

Minute Taker: Deanna Rogers from EDA

Members attended: 16

AGENDA	
	Welcome & Apologies
	WB welcomed members and the guest speaker: Josephine Mytil, Welfare Advice and Debt Support Manager from the Local Authority. Apologies received from board members: Surojit Walawalkar (SW), Jane Richards (JR), Nuray Kumbarji, Laurentine Goulei
	The Cost-of-Living Crisis
	Josephine provided background information about her extensive experience with welfare benefits and associated issues. The PowerPoint presentation given contains various useful links and will be emailed to members along with these minutes. For some time now nothing has kept in line with inflation. Josephine's team are trying to look holistically at individual circumstances including the options of discretionary payment and exemptions. There is help on the website and a link to the referral form - see link on presentation slides. Josephine has a team of 4 workers plus another 3 outreach workers. Unfortunately, there is currently a backlog of work, however, if your situation is urgent, please state this on the referral form.
	Council Tax Rebate
	Help is available for a council tax rebate of up to £150. In supported living for a Band E property £108 can be claimed even if not directly paying council tax. Everyone who is the named council tax holder in receipt of council tax support in B and F will receive a rebate between now and November. This also applies to the provider of supported housing
	Energy Grant Support Scheme & Cost of Living Payments
	£400 Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">From October everyone will have monthly payments directly from their supplier into their accounts starting at £66 a month and rising to £67 from November through to March 2023. This does not need to be repaid.



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- National Energy Action (NEA) is the national charity working to end fuel poverty in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. They are working on the issues of those in supported living paying VAT rates for businesses at 20% rather than the domestic rate at 5%

£650 Cost of Living Payment

- This payment is to help those on means-tested benefits. The Government will distribute payments in two instalments – one of £326 and another £324. For ESA benefits the grant is only available to those receiving income related ESA, NOT for those receiving contribution-based ESA. If members have not received payment, please use the link on the attached presentation slides to contact the relevant department. There are also issues for those on Universal Credit, again, please use the link for help if required

£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment

- This payment is for those who receive disability benefits such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independent Payment, Attendance Allowance. This is a one-off payment that should be paid out in October

£300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment

- A one-off payment for all pensioners that will be made alongside the Winter Fuel Payment from November. This one-off payment will also be made to people on Pension Credit

Warmer Homes Discount

- Apply through the link on the government website. If you qualify and if applicable, make sure that the person claiming is on the Priority Register
- Ofgem and every provider has a Priority List to make sure they are aware of eligibility

It was suggested that all this information should appear on the Enfield Carers Newsletter and that organisations commissioned to provide Information and Advice should also provide regular updates.

Anyone who does not have a smart meter is being advised to provide their meter readings to their supplier so that they are not working with information on estimated bills. Also check your current tariff to ensure that you are getting the best price possible for your energy supply.

Additional Support

Household Support Fund

There will be a 3rd round of the Household Support Fund to cover the period from October 2022 to March 2023. The government dictate which service sectors are covered for vulnerable residents, these are: Food, Energy and Water. There are issues around the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) which means that many severely disabled people miss out. It was suggested that decision makers, Councillors or Leaders should be approached to resolve the problem.

Food Pantry

The local authority has opened Food Pantries in Enfield and Edmonton Libraries. Referrals are through assessment by the Welfare and Debt Advisory Team. Pantry users will pay £4.50 per week and will be able to buy the equivalent of about £20 worth of food. It was suggested that you visit the pantry



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before going to the supermarket to buy any further produce. Membership of the pantry is for 6 months only.

	Additional Issues & Questions Raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a check made through Adult Social Care for Disability Related Expenditure (DRE)? This is carried out by the Income Support Team and can be challenged via the Voluntary Sector. The subject is being raised via the Money Matters Group (MMG)• WB mentioned that she had received a letter with money saving ideas for energy bills and how to make homes more energy efficient. This has gone out to all Enfield residents with information about Green Grants• The debt in Adult Social Care has doubled over the past year.
	Date for next meeting
	<p>WB thanked Josephine for her presentation today. Josephine added that she would be happy to return and give a similar presentation about Universal Credit; this would be useful for JR. Also, information regarding National Energy Action will be forwarded to BR as they are a large national charity and hold many webinars that may be useful.</p> <p>The next meeting will be a Christmas gathering, with food, held at Park Avenue on Monday 5th December 2022.</p>