

Funding Support for Mercian Trust Families

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Clicking the pink hyperlinks on the following pages will take you directly to the necessary sites.

The Mercian Trust

Registered address: Mercian House, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road, Walsall. WS1 2PG
Telephone: 01922 211388. Email: info@themerciantrust.org. Web: www.themerciantrust.org
Registered in England and Wales No: 07611347

1 - Help with food and essentials

You may want to:

- [apply for an emergency support payment](#) - this could help pay for:
 - food
 - clothes
 - essential items (for example, a washing machine or fridge)
- [find a local food bank](#)
- [Black Country foodbank](#) or vouchers should be made available by each school.

2 - Help to keep your home warm

You can:

- [apply for funding to help keep your home warm](#)
- [apply for an emergency support payment](#) - this can help you pay for heating and other costs
- [find out if you'll get the £150 council tax rebate](#) to help with energy costs
- find out about the [Energy+ support resource](#) - this provides help to prevent fuel poverty
- contact [British Gas Energy Trust](#) for grants and support even if you're not a British Gas customer

There is help with heating costs on the government's website:

- [Warm Home Discount Scheme](#)
- [National Concessionary Fuel Scheme](#)
- [Winter Fuel Payment](#)
- [Cold Weather Payment](#)

3 - Help to pay your rent

To help pay your rent, you can:

- [apply for a discretionary housing payment \(DHP\)](#)
- [get advice from Money Helper](#)

You may be eligible for benefits from the government. Their website will tell you all about:

- [benefits you can get if you're on a low income](#)

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4 - Support if you are pregnant or have a child under 4

- [find out what benefits you can get on gov.uk](#)
- [get Healthy Start vouchers from the NHS](#) to help buy basic foods
- [apply for an emergency support payment](#) - this can help pay for:
 - heating
 - food
 - clothes
 - nappies
 - other essentials
- find out about [personal budgets and direct payments for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

5 - Support if you have a child over 4

You can:

- [find out what benefits you can get on gov.uk](#)

If you're eligible, you can also:

- [sign up to the HAF \(Holiday Activities and Food\) programme](#) - it's free for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals
- [apply for free school meals](#)
- [get help with the cost of home to school transport](#)
- [apply for an emergency support payment](#) - this can help pay for:
 - heating
 - food
 - clothes
 - nappies
 - other essentials
- find out about [personal budgets and direct payments for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities \(SEND\)](#)
- Apply for an educational bursary for post 16 students via school:
 - See school website.

6 - Reduce your council tax

You can:

- [apply for council tax reduction \(CTR\)](#)
- [find out about CTR if you have a disability](#)
- [find out if you'll get the £150 council tax rebate](#) to help with energy costs

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The council tax reduction (CTR) scheme has changed. You may be able to get [hardship support](#) if the changes mean that you are worse off.

7 - Water discounts and services

Find out about

- [the discount scheme from Severn Trent Water](#)
- [the discount scheme from South Staffs Water \(SSW\)](#)

SSW [community hub](#) can make sure you get extra help when you need it. You can also [compare their tariffs](#) to see what's right for you.

If you're having money problems, you can apply to the [SSW Charitable Trust](#). They may be able to help towards the cost of your water bill.

If you're a care leaver, you can [get a discounted tariff from SSW](#).

8 - Help if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Walsall Council Housing Team can offer help and support to you. You can contact them [by email](#) or you can [phone](#).

Find out more about:

- [finding a home](#)
- [places you can stay and other help from Homeless England](#)

9 - Financial help and benefits from the government

You may be able to get tax relief or financial support:

- [check what help you can get from HMRC](#)

Find out more about the benefits you could get, including:

- [benefits for families](#)
- [benefits if you're on a low income](#)
- [support if you're looking for work](#)
- [benefits if you're unable to work](#)
- [benefits if you have a disability or health condition](#)
- [help and support if you're a carer](#)
- [help you can get if someone dies](#)

There's also advice from the government about:

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- [earnings and taxes](#)
- [employment](#)

10 - Advice with debt and managing your money

If your debts are getting out of control, we can help. [Email our debt referral team](#).

There are lots of organisations outside of the council that will help you too.

Breathing Space

This free scheme could give you up to 60 days space from creditors. [StepChange](#) can help you to apply.

Debt advice

- [Ablewell Advice](#)
- [Age UK](#)
- [Citizens Advice](#)
- [The Debt Advice Foundation](#)
- [National Debtline](#)
- [StepChange Debt Charity](#)
- [PayPlan](#)
- [Walsall Money Advice Project](#)

Help with managing your money

- [Money Helper](#) gives free, impartial advice about your money
- [Turn2us](#) provides practical help if you're struggling with money

11 - Mental health and wellbeing support

- [Let's Chat](#) is a friendly, local wellbeing service
- [Making Connections Walsall](#) provides support for loneliness
- [Walsall Talking Therapies](#) can help if you're:
 - aged 17 or over
 - have symptoms of depression and anxiety
- [The Samaritans](#) can help with mental health and emotional support
- [The British Legion](#) supports members and veterans of the armed forces and their families
- [Rethink](#) has lots of information and advice about mental health

12 - Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice Sandwell & Walsall provides free, confidential and impartial advice for the people in Sandwell and Walsall no matter what problems you may have.

The service can be found by clicking here - [Citizens Advice](#)

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