

# Feeling the Pinch?



The Covid -19 pandemic has had a significant impact on people in our communities and on the local economy. However, there is a range of support and help available in Perth and Kinross. If you are feeling the pinch please ask for help. We understand that it's not your fault, and the Council and our community partners are here to support you through this. Here is some of the help available if you feel you are struggling:

## **Benefits support and advice**

The Council's Welfare Rights Team is there to ensure that the residents of Perth and Kinross are not missing out on their entitlement to benefits and other related help by providing a free, confidential and impartial benefits advice and information service. If you need advice about your benefits call **01738 476900 (Option 1)** or visit **[www.pkc.gov.uk/wrt](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/wrt)**

## **Housing costs**

If you are a Council tenant please call Your Locality Housing Team if you are struggling to pay your rent or bills. We can offer a wide range of help, and you may even qualify for financial support towards your housing costs. You may qualify for a Discretionary Housing Payment, a grant from our Tenancy Sustainment Fund or a loan from the Scottish Government's Tenant Hardship Loan Fund. Call your Locality Housing Team on **01738 476000 (Option 2)** or visit **[www.pkc.gov.uk/arrearsadvice](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/arrearsadvice)**

The Scottish Government has launched a Tenant Hardship Loan Fund that is open for applications from social and private tenants struggling with housing costs:

**<https://tenanthardshiploan.est.org.uk>**

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**PERTH &  
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**[www.pkc.gov.uk/feelingthepinch](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/feelingthepinch)**

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## Free school meals and clothing grants

Free school meals are offered to all pupils in P1 - P3. If your child is P4 or above you may be able to claim free school meals if you are claiming certain benefits. You may also qualify for a school clothing grant for your children. Call **01738 476200** for more information or visit [www.pkc.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

## Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit

You may be able to get Council Tax Reduction if you are liable for Council Tax. If you also rent your home, you may also get Housing Benefit. Please contact us on **01738 476049** to check your potential entitlement or visit [www.pkc.gov.uk/ctrhbapply](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/ctrhbapply)

## Scottish Welfare Fund crisis grants

The Scottish Welfare Fund is a discretionary scheme administered by local authorities which aims to provide a safety net in an emergency through the provision of Crisis Grants. You can apply for a grant online. To find out more visit [www.pkc.gov.uk/scottishwelfarefund](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/scottishwelfarefund) or call the Scottish Welfare Fund Team on **01738 476900 (option 2)**.

## Citizen's Advice Scotland

Citizen's Advice Scotland offers personal, one-to-one advice and information on employment, housing, debt, benefits and consumer issues like energy bills.

Their helpline - **0800 028 1456** - is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. You can also visit <https://www.perthcab.org.uk/home>