



WEST LANCASHIRE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Briefing – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

- **[£150 Energy Rebate – Non-Direct Debit payers](#) - Update**
  - For customers who do not pay council tax by direct debit, you will have been issued with a letter on 21st July 2022 providing you with all the information needed to make your claim, to enable us to pay the £150 into your bank account. You will need to complete an on-line form via the link below
  - You will be asked to provide the following:
    - Bank Account and Sort Code for the person liable for the Council Tax at the property (this cannot be a Building Society account, please refer to the FAQs below for more information)
    - Council Tax account number (will be included in the letter you are issued with)
    - Unique Access Key - this will expire on 26th August 2022 (will be included in the letter you are issued with)
  - We are aiming to make the payments to qualifying households within 14 days of you submitting your claim
  - [Apply for the Rebate here](#)
  - [For more general information about the rebate, visit the Council website](#)
- **[Household Support Fund](#) - Update**
  - West Lancashire Borough Council are now receiving [applications](#) from residents who do not have enough resources to meet their immediate short-term needs and require assistance with essential items
  - This grant can be used to help towards the cost of:
    - Food
    - Energy / water needs
    - Essentials linked to energy / water needs
    - Wider essentials such as household bills, clothing, and white goods
    - Travelling to COVID-19 vaccination appointments
  - It is not intended to cover debt advice or general financial hardship support which is not linked to food, warmth and/or hygiene
  - The fund **is not** intended to cover housing costs as there are other benefits and support available to help with these, for example Discretionary Housing Payments
  - Please email [housing.benefits@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:housing.benefits@westlancs.gov.uk) for an application form
  - Awards will be made where there is no alternative means of meeting the need
  - [Download the application form here.](#)
  - [For more information about the fund, visit our website](#)

- **We Are Digital**

- This project is ending on **31 07 2022**
- This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who lives or works in West Lancashire, you will not only obtain new digital skills, but you will also gain confidence which will help you be more independent
- If you do not have a device but would like to learn new digital skills, please get in touch as this is something that we can help you with
- Call Emma on 01695 585 216 or 07825 844 417

**Get Online**  
Register today for free  
remote training sessions

Working in partnership with We Are Digital we are offering remote training and support for residents who need help with essential IT skills including:

- How to video call friends & family
- Using social media such as Facebook (inc. Internet Safety)
- Arranging GP appointments by video
- Shopping online (due to travel restrictions)
  - Doing online banking (safer than telephone banking)
- Creating a CV and applying for jobs
- Government forms online & on the phone (benefits such as Universal Credit)
- Help with energy or switching bills

Text WEST LANCS and your name to  
07825 844 417 or call us directly on  
01695 585216  
(standard charges apply)

### **Funding Opportunities:**

- **Funding to Enable Disadvantaged Young People Reach their Potential (UK)** Projects must meet all the following criteria:
  - For children and young people under the age of 25 who are disadvantaged
  - Consist of educational activities that develop learning, motivation, and skills
  - Have clear aims and objectives to be met within a planned timescale
  - Are within the UK
  - The Company is particularly interested in enabling primary age children to develop a strong foundation for the future. Projects could, for example:
    - Support special educational needs
    - Address behavioural problems
    - Promote citizenship, parenting or life skills
  - Preference will be given to projects piloting new approaches where the outcomes will be disseminated to a wider audience
  - The next deadline for applications is the **31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**
  - Useful Links: [Grant Application Form](#)
  - Organisation name: Ironmongers Company  
Link: [http://www.ironmongers.org/charity\\_organisations.htm](http://www.ironmongers.org/charity_organisations.htm)

- **£2 Million available to Fund Innovative Ideas that will Benefit People & the Planet (UK)**
- UK registered organisations are invited to apply for a share of £2 million for early-stage innovation projects, that use people and planet-centred design processes and expertise to influence their future research and development activity
- The competition will help businesses, charities, public sector, and not-for-profit organisations work alone or in collaboration to develop new ideas or test and improve existing ideas that will benefit people and the planet
- Projects can explore innovative ideas for physical or digital products, services, places, or business models
- Grants of between £40,000 and £80,000 are available and applications are encouraged from organisations that have not previously used people and planet-centred design processes or expertise
- The funding is made available by Innovate UK through the Design Foundations Competition, which closes to applications at 11am on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022
- Innovate UK - Design Foundations Competition
- Deadline: **31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**
- Link: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1231/overview/0443af44-d8d5-4909-8b66-2e5bb46a4a11#summary>

- **UK Insurance and Long-Term Savings Industry (UK) Covid-19 Support Fund**



- The UK insurance and long-term savings industry has launched the Covid-19 Support Fund to help support some of the people hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis
- The Covid-19 Support Fund aims to raise £100 million, with £82.6 million already having been pledged in voluntary contributions from firms within the sector
- The Fund will work in partnership with the Charities Aid Foundation, and a network of partners, including the National Emergencies Trust
- The key aim is to provide immediate relief to charities affected by Covid-19, as well as a longer-term programme of support for people, communities, and issues where there is the greatest need
- <https://www.covid19support.org.uk/>

- **Grants of up to £5,000** are available to registered charities to support projects that equip people (18 or older in order) from disadvantaged groups with critical life skills necessary for employment
- Priority will be given to projects that target people experiencing multiple deprivation or other groups facing major hurdles to employment, especially, women, people with physical, mental, or learning disabilities, refugees, and asylum seekers
- The funding is being made available through the Thomas Wall Trust and to be eligible the applicants must:
- Be a UK charity that has been registered with the Charity Commission for at least 3 years
- Be a project or running costs for a charity that equips people (aged 18 and over) with the skills ready for employment
- Have an annual turnover of less than £500,000
- The **deadline for stage 1 applications is the 19th of September 2022**
- Applicants successful at this stage will be invited to submit a stage 2 application
- More info: Organisation name: Thomas Wall Trust
- **Deadline: 19-09-2022**
- Link: <https://www.thomaswalltrust.org.uk/grants-for-registered-charities-2/>
- To [access a full list of funding](https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html) which has been made available to help with the impact that Covid -19 is having on local communities follow this link: <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

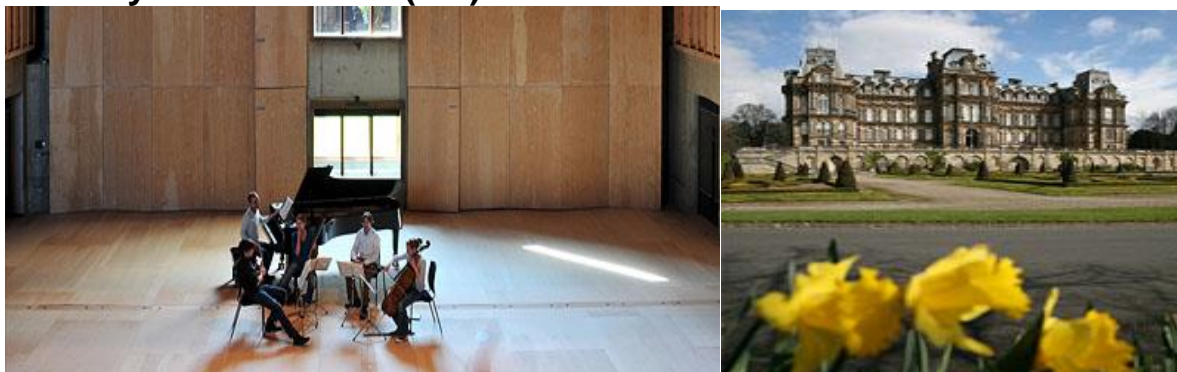
- **Holiday Grants for Disadvantaged & Disabled Children (UK)**



- Schools, youth groups, not for profit organisations and charities can apply for grants of £500 to £2,500 to support recreational trips or holidays within the UK for groups of disabled or disadvantaged children (aged 13 or under)
- Priority will be given to applications coming from the 20% most deprived areas in the UK
- Funded by the Henry Smith Charity, grants can cover up to two-thirds of the cost of a holiday or trip lasting one to seven days
- Applications will be accepted until the 30th September 2022, for day trips between the 5th September and 31 December 2022
- Applications must be made at least six weeks before the trip or holiday is due to take place
- Previous visits supported include:

- All Saints Catholic Primary School which received a grant of £1,500 towards a two-night trip to Wales for a group of disadvantaged children from Merseyside
- Bridgewater School which received a grant of £1,900 towards an overnight trip to London for a group of disadvantaged children from Newcastle; and
- 6th St Helens (Parr) Scout Group received a grant of £1,100 towards a two-night trip to an activity centre in Lancashire for a group of children from a disadvantaged area of Merseyside
- Henry Smith Charity - **Deadline 30 09 2022**
- <https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/explore-our-grants-and-apply/holiday-grants-for-children/holiday-grants-for-children-overview/>

### • The Foyle Foundation (UK) Small Grants Scheme



- The Foyle Foundation has re-opened its Small Grants Scheme to support smaller, grassroots, and local charities across the UK during the Covid-19 crisis
- Organisations which are currently delivering services to the young, vulnerable, elderly, disadvantaged or the general community either directly or through online support can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £10,000
- Funding can be used to cover core costs or essential equipment, to enable ongoing service provision, homeworking, or delivery of online digital services for charities with a turnover of less than £150,000 per annum that can show financial stability and a clear need for their services
- How to apply:
  - Please note that competition is intense; we receive many more applications than we can fund. The Foundation only supports charities and is not able to support individuals.
  - Applications need to be submitted online anytime: <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/>
- When to apply:
  - Applications are accepted all year round; **we have no deadlines.**
  - If you have any queries, please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions page or contact us on 020 7430 9119

- Email: [mgs@foylefoundation.org.uk](mailto:mgs@foylefoundation.org.uk) (Main Grants Scheme)  
[sls@foylefoundation.org.uk](mailto:sls@foylefoundation.org.uk) (School Library Scheme)  
[sgs@foylefoundation.org.uk](mailto:sgs@foylefoundation.org.uk) (Small Grants Scheme)
- **Residential Breaks for Disadvantaged Young People**
  - Schools, registered charities, and community and voluntary organisations seeking to offer breaks for disadvantaged young people and families with the most challenging lives can apply for support for a residential stay in England and Wales
  - Organisations can apply on behalf of any individual or group of young people who are experiencing disadvantage including homelessness, disability, long-term illness, bereavement, and other circumstances that limit children's opportunities
  - The funding is made available through the Youth Hostel Association's Breaks Programme which will accept applications from school groups in the Alternative Provision sector of education, along with schools who are interested in taking pupils on a residential break from primary to secondary school; organisations who work with families; and groups who are seeking support for a residential stay
  - **No application deadline is given**
  - Organisation name: Youth Hostel Association - Breaks Programme
  - Link: <https://www.yha.org.uk/support-programmes>

- **Coronavirus (Covid 19) & Mental Health**



- The impact and experience of the COVID-19 outbreak has been different for everyone, as has how we have reacted, but there's no doubt it's been a really difficult time for us all
- That's why it's so important to do what we can to look after our mental health and wellbeing, now more than ever
- See the articles below for loads of help and advice, or you can complete the [Your Mind Plan Quiz](#) to see what works for you – and don't hesitate to reach out if you need support
- Top tips for staying safe in hot weather include:
  - look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated – older people, those with underlying conditions and those who live alone are particularly at risk

- stay cool indoors by closing curtains on rooms that face the sun – and remember that it may be cooler outdoors than indoors
- drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol
- never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children, or animals
- check that fridges, freezers and fans are working properly
- try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm, when the UV rays are strongest
- walk in the shade, apply sunscreen, and wear a wide-brimmed hat, if you must go out in the heat
- avoid physical exertion in the hottest parts of the day
- make sure you take water with you if you are travelling
- check medicines can be stored according to the instructions on the packaging
- Swimming in hot weather:
  - As the summer continues, swimming in open water such as canals and reservoirs can be extremely dangerous but is particularly tempting for young people finishing school for the summer
  - Please see <https://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/safety/safety-advice/water-safety/> for important safety advice
- **Covid Update**
  - Between 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 28 people had a confirmed Covid-19 positive test result in West Lancashire. This shows a decrease of **9.7%** compared to the previous **7** days. \*
  - Follow this [link](#) to connect to the UK Government dashboard for a regularly updated short summary of the picture in West Lancashire.
  - Covid infections have increased in West Lancashire this week. Continue to follow the government guidelines for 'Living with Covid' and ensure we are still trying to limit the spread by:
    - Get vaccinated
    - Wash your hands
    - Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or alternatively meet outside
    - Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces

\*Figures taken from the UK Government dashboard **20/07/2022**