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This edition of <u>Cross River Partnership (CRP)</u>'s newsletter is focused on the cost-of-living crisis. Below you will find links, articles and resources from CRP's local authority, Business Improvement District partners and charities across the UK. We hope you find this a useful resource. For any further information, please contact the <u>CRP Team</u>.



Doing Our Bit



Westminster City Council Energy Audit Scheme





Westminster Food Support Services and Cost of Living Strategy



As part of the <u>Cost of Living Strategy 2022</u> and to further support residents during this crucial time, <u>Westminster City Council</u> have provided information on food support services on the <u>cost of living support hub</u>.

The information provided includes details on food banks and places where a hot meal or beverage can be obtained.

For more information on Westminster City Council's services for cost of living, please see the recently launched <u>Fairer Westminster Strategy</u>.

WrapUp London



This winter, more than ever due to the cost-of-living crisis, WrapUp London need your help. They are looking for warm jackets to help those in need, as well as volunteers to collect them and get them to where they need to go.

This November, they will be bringing together hundreds of volunteers to collect, sort and distribute up to 25,000 coats. A coat doesn't only provide warmth, it is often a gateway for someone to access services to help them get back on their feet.

Now in its 12th year, WrapUp have so far distributed 197,245 coats! If you've got a warm jacket to donate in your wardrobe, take a look at <u>their website</u> to see how you can help this winter.

If you would like to volunteer for collections, either from tube stations, at home or distribution centres, please email <u>wulvolunteers@handsonlondon.org.uk</u>.

Get coats to those who need them

Lewisham Bank of Things



<u>The Bank of Things</u> is a new Young Mayors Project, working in partnership with <u>Lewisham</u> <u>Local</u>, aimed at Young People aged 11 to 25 living in Lewisham. The issue aims to address poverty in the borough of Lewisham and provides vital support for everyday necessities for young people in Lewisham facing hardship.

The Bank of Things is a place where young people will be able to drop in and pick up some of the everyday items they need to participate fully in their lives. The Bank of Things relies on donations, so please donate what you can to support young people in the borough!

There is particular interest in donations for toiletries (e.g. deodorant, tampons and toothpaste) and stationery (e.g. A4 lined refill pads, folders, post it notes). There is also a desire to support over Christmas, so please donate any neutral-coloured gloves and socks, book tokens, pre-paid gift cards and sweets.

This initiative will have greater significance this coming winter with a cost-of-living crisis, rising energy bills and rising food poverty. Latest figures have revealed that <u>41% of children</u> <u>across London are living in poverty</u>, and many do not have access to vital resources or free school meals. This is the highest rate of poverty in any English region.

Greater London Authority: Warmer Homes

On 1st October 2022, energy prices for most households increased by 27% and the weather is getting colder. <u>The Mayor of London's Warmer Homes Programme</u> offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 for heating, insulation and ventilation improvements for low-income Londoners who own their homes or rent privately and live in an EPC D-G rated property.

The Mayor is actively working with local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to promote the programme and welcomes support to ensure that eligible households in all London communities are able to access funding. The programme has received over 1,000 eligible applications to date.

Warmer Homes will run until 31st March 2023 and early application is recommended to benefit from the scheme before colder weather hits.

Click to email for more information



Lambeth's Household Support Scheme

London Borough of Lambeth's Household Support Scheme can help if you're a resident facing hardship, a crisis, emergency or disaster, including struggling to pay bills or afford food. The scheme provides in-kind support such as vouchers.

London Borough of Lambeth can help households meet living costs through high street vouchers, food vouchers, fuel payments, second-hand furniture, refurbished white goods, a handy-man service and removals/storage service.



Support from London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



Last week, Forbes <u>reported</u> that a survey of 5,000 UK households showed 91% of adults had reported an increase in their living costs compared with a year ago, while almost three-quarters say that costs have become more expensive in the last month alone. Local governments are providing as much support as they can to their residents.

The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War has exacerbated the crisis, but the pandemic, climate change/environmental concerns and supply chain problems have also contributed to it.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham is offering services from free school meals to free adult social care and working with partners to help locals. The council has given £240,000 in grants to 36 local organisations helping residents with the cost-of-living crisis. A third of the funding is for pensioners, while another third is for households with children under 19.

<u>Click here</u> for more information, or <u>subscribe to the Climate Emergency newsletter</u>, Climate Connects, for useful articles on initiatives.

City of London Corporation Support



Check out all the support available through the City of London Corporation, including <u>City</u> <u>Advice</u> to help you manage everyday problems, <u>Healthy Start Vouchers</u> and the <u>Emergency support scheme</u>.



Apply for Emergency Money in London Borough of Southwark



Cost of Living Support Guide -Age UK Islington



London Borough of Camden's Cost of Living Fund Payment



Mayor introduces free travel for the lowest paid transport workers



Tuesday 25th October, 3pm. Intro to Social Media Strategy. General Assembly.

Tuesday 1st November, 9:30am - 2pm. <u>Balancing the Books: Understand Your Financial</u> <u>Accounts</u>. Innovate UK.

Tuesday 8th November, 9:30am - 2pm. <u>Positive Impacts for a Sustainable Business</u>. Innovate UK.

Thursday 24th November, 4pm - 4:45pm. <u>The Innovative Built Environment</u>. CRP's Connect 4 Series: Session 11.

Friday 25th November. The Sustainable Events Show 2022.

Cross River Partnership is an alliance of Angel London, Better Bankside BID, Brixton BID, Cadogan, Camden Town Unlimited BID, Central District Alliance, Cheapside Business Alliance, City of London Corporation, Eastern City Partnership, Euston Town BID, Fleet Street Quarter, Greater London Authority, Groundwork London, Hammersmith BID, Hatton Garden BID, London and Partners, London Borough of Camden, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London Borough of Islington, London Borough of Lambeth, London Borough of Lewisham, London Borough of Southwark, Network Rail, Port of London Authority, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, South Bank BID, Team London Bridge BID, The Fitzrovia Partnership BID, The Northbank BID, Transport for London, Vauxhall One BID, Victoria BID, Westminster City Council.

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