

# Your money MOT

If you could save some money, what would you like to buy or do?



# Contents

- Where to start ..... page 4
- Keeping warm ..... page 6
- Other utilities ..... page 7
- Travel & leisure ..... page 8
- Food ..... page 8
- Home ..... page 9
- Consumer ..... page 10
- Health ..... page 11
- Planning ahead ..... page 12
- For more information ..... page 14



# Your money MOT

If you could save some money, what would you like to buy or do?

I'd like to buy /  
achieve / improve: .....

.....

.....

Now that you've created a goal, choose some actions to help you achieve it – pick a few from this guide to get started.

I'm going to try:

I'll look into:

I'd like to:

# Your money MOT

## Where to start?

- A **free benefits check** from Age UK Wiltshire or another advice agency can check entitlement to means-tested benefits and premiums.
- **Note your outgoings and spending** each month so you can keep track of where your money goes and what you might be able to reduce - look at bank statements, bills, receipts and use a free budget sheet to help.
- **Identify regular payments** like direct debits, lotteries, charity donations, insurance policies, standing orders - check they are necessary and offer the service you want.
- If you have less than £16,000 savings you could be eligible for **Help with NHS costs** through NHS low income scheme for money off NHS dentist, glasses and transport and other costs.
- Locate details of all your savings, loans, financial products and policies to **be clear on your assets, debts** and policy payouts.
- **Track down pension providers** that you've lost contact with by using the free Government Pension Tracing Service tel: 0800 731 0193

# Your money MOT

- **Grants** might be available through occupational or charity funds. The charity Turn2Us have a database of grants. Web: [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)
- In a **money crisis** situation contact your local food bank or local council welfare provision.
- If you have debt, credit cards, loans or an overdraft that worry you, seek **free impartial debt advice** to help you take back control.



# Your money MOT

## Keeping warm

- **Compare energy tariffs** to check you're getting the best deal
- Lean how to use your heating controls effectively and use energy saving tips
- **Warm Home Discount** is a £140 through your electricity supplier for more vulnerable customers
- Many older people are eligible for the government's **Winter Fuel Payment** of between £100-£300
- Wiltshire **Surviving Winter Grant** is a one-off local grant for those that are struggling to afford their fuel bills - contact us for details
- Check for grants for insulation and energy efficiency measures with Warm and Safe Wiltshire
- Submit regular **meter readings**, or consider a smart meter, so that your bills are accurate. Don't forget to make a note of when need to be



## Top Tip

You may save 3% on your heating bill for each degree that you turn your thermostat down

# Your money MOT

## Other Utilities

- **Compare insurances** (like home, contents, car, breakdown cover, pets, travel) to check you're getting the best deal and have appropriate cover if something goes wrong
- Consider having a free **water meter** installed if you are a low user
- **Wessex Water** offer a 20% discount if you receive Pension credit or only have State Pension as income. **Thames Water** have a 'WaterHelp' scheme for low income households 50% discount if someone earns less than £16,385.
- **Compare phone and broadband services** to see if you can get better deal. A simple phone call could reduce your bill. Find out how at [www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/money-help](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/money-help)



## Top Tip

**Ask if your water supplier offers a free water saving pack**

# Your money MOT

## Travel and Leisure

- Investigate bus pass, rail card, community transport, blue badge or buying tickets in advance/online to save money
- Find the cheapest petrol station near you and consider ways to make driving more efficient
- Find out about free/low cost activities or pensioner discounts for things you enjoy



## Food

- Why not try meal plans or a grocery list to reduce waste?
- Consider shop apps/reward schemes to save on items you buy anyway
- Swap brand leaders for supermarket own brands – often you cannot tell the difference!

## Top Tip

Look at lower shelves in supermarkets as this is often where the cheaper products are



# Your money MOT

## Home

- Check whether you are eligible for a non-means-tested **Council Tax discount** (for example some carers and people with disabilities) and that your banding is correct
- Outstanding mortgage? You may be eligible for a 'Support for Mortgage Interest' loan from the DWP
- If you receive Housing Benefit which doesn't cover your full rent, you may be able to apply for a **Discretionary Housing Payment** from your local council to help.
- **Compare mortgage deals** to check you're getting the best deal and ensure you understand your mortgage product



# Your money MOT

## Consumer

- **Compare insurances** (like home, contents, car, breakdown cover, pets, travel) to check you're getting the best deal and have appropriate cover if something goes wrong
- **TV licence** — check if eligible for free/concession
- Have you experienced **consumer issues**? You may be able to claim money back from incorrect bills, delays or poor service.
- If you are frequently dipping into savings to pay for presents/outings, talk to family and friends — they may be relieved to agree a limit!
- Having separate bank accounts, for example one account for bills and one for regular saving, can help you keep organised.



## Top Tip

If an offer is too good to be true, it probably is!

# Your money MOT

## Health

- If you have a long-term health condition or disability affecting your daily living then you may be eligible for a non-means-tested **disability benefit** such as Attendance Allowance
- Local councils can offer **assistance with equipment/adaptations** (up to £1,000 may be provided free) and means-tested funding towards care packages and care home fees; ask the Adult Social Care team for a free care needs assessment
- If you have a disability you may be eligible for **VAT relief** on a variety of items/services such as disability equipment and building work.
- **Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC)** —can save you money if you have a lot of prescriptions. Ask your pharmacist for details.
- If you are recently bereaved there may be extra support — DWP funeral payment, inheriting pension. Contact the **DWP Bereavement service** Tel: 0800 731 0469



## Planning ahead

- A **will** can help ensure your wishes for your estate are carried out. You may be able to write a lower-cost will through a reputable charity scheme. Seek legal advice from a specialist solicitor if unsure.
- A **Power of Attorney** means you can allow someone else to help manage your affairs in the future. You can get information and forms from the Office of the Public Guardian. Tel 0300 456 0300 [www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney)
- Consider simple ways to make your money work for you – a bank account that pays interest or cashback, reputable cashback websites, savings accounts. Seek independent financial advice if unsure.

# Your money MOT

## Planning ahead

- Check whether you are eligible for any **tax allowances** and that your annual tax code is correct Marriage Allowance (if one of you is born before 6 April 1935), or Married Couple's Allowance (if one or both born after this date), Blind Person's Allowance if registered blind or severely sight impaired. Contact HMRC Income tax: 0300 200 3300 or see: [www.gov.uk/income-tax-rates](http://www.gov.uk/income-tax-rates)
- Take an interest in learning about financial products and ways to manage your money. Products like a funeral plan, life insurance, equity release, or investment products could be things to consider—seek independent financial advice if unsure.

**Review spending  
regularly & keep up the  
great work!**



# For more information

## **Age UK Wiltshire** – free information & advice

- Web: [www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk) Tel: 0808 196 2424

## **Money Saving Expert** - online articles and money news

- Web: [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

## **Money Helper** - all things money & pensions

- Web: [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk) Tel: 0800 138 7777

## **Warm and Safe Wiltshire** - energy efficiency advice and energy related grants

- Tel: 0800 038 5722

## **Stepchange** - free impartial deb advice and budget sheets

- Tel: 0800 138 1111

## **Tax Help for Older People** - free tax advice

- Tel: 01308 488 066

## **Society of Later Life Advisors (SOLLA)** - financial advice

- Tel: 0333 2020 454

# For more information

**Citizens Advice** - free impartial debt and budgeting advice

- Tel: 0800 144 8848

**Action Fraud** - be wise to scams

- Tel: 0300 123 2040

**DWP Budgeting loan (for existing benefit claimants)** - interest-free but must be repaid from ongoing benefit

- Tel: 0800 169 0140

**Charitable wills schemes**

- Will Aid Web: [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk)
- Free Wills Month Web: [www.freewillsmoonth.org.uk](http://www.freewillsmoonth.org.uk)

**Comparison sites**

If using a comparison site it is important to check it is impartial. Some are also Ofgem accredited:

- [www.uswitch.com](http://www.uswitch.com) Tel: 0800 6888 557 (free call)
- [www.energyhelpline.com](http://www.energyhelpline.com) Tel: 0800 074 0745 (free call)

Sources: [moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com); Age UK; Citizens Advice



**Tel: 0808 196 2424**

**Email: [enquiries@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)**

**[www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk)**