

Saving you money cont.

One-off grants for individuals

Age UK Wiltshire can help eligible clients apply for grants in the region of up to £300 to help with household essentials, unexpected bills, heating costs. You must be on a low income and be able to demonstrate that you could not afford the expense. These cannot be paid retrospectively. Turn2Us (www.turn2us.org.uk) has a database of grants.

Warm Home Discount

If you meet 'broader group' criteria set by your electricity provider, or if you receive Guaranteed Pension Credit, then you could get £140 credit to help with your fuel bills. Contact your electricity supplier to ask if you qualify, from around Aug-Sept.

Help with health costs—NHS low income scheme

If they have less than £16000 and are on a low income, or if you receive certain means-tested benefits then you could qualify for help with NHS health costs such as glasses, dentists and hospital travel costs. Tel: 0300 330 1343.

Other useful organisations

Independent Living Centre, Semington—charity offering free, impartial, professional advice on aids and equipment which you can also try out at their premises. Tel: 01380 871007

Swindon Citizens Advice— Tel: 0808 278 7813

Swindon Borough Council gen. enquiries: 01793 445500

V April 2021



Swindon

Little book of useful information

Information on local services and schemes to help you to save money and stay independent

For further information or if you need advice on another issue please call our friendly Information & Advice team:

0808 196 2424 (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm or answerphone during busy times)

We can also offer information & advice about:

- ◆ Local social activities, telephone befriending, clubs & groups
- ◆ Housing and care options, accessing different types of support and resolving problems
- ◆ Much more!

www.ageukwiltshire.org.uk

Free help and advice to remain independent

Free needs assessment from Swindon Borough Council

Email: careline@swindon.gov.uk /Tel:**0800 085 6666 or 01793 463333**

This usually involves an occupational therapist visiting you at home to discuss your needs. As a result of the assessment, the local authority can provide:

- a report of what the needs are (this can help you make decisions about care and support)
- up to £1000 of free aids and minor adaptations, regardless of finances. This could include items like grab rails, ramps and bath seats. A 'Disabled Facilities Grant' may be available for larger adaptations.
- Means-tested funding towards a care package (usually an individual must have less than £23,250 in capital)

Support for carers

Request a free carer's assessment from Swindon Borough Council (same details as above) if your caring role is having a significant impact on your wellbeing. As a result of the assessment you could receive: help with your caring role, respite care, aids, support to complete a carer's emergency card. The local authority can help fund some of this.

Swindon Carer's Centre charity—Tel: **01793 531133**
www.swindoncarers.org.uk/

Safe and Well visits

Free home visits by the Dorset & Wilts fire service to check and install necessary smoke alarms and give advice on escape plans and home safety. Tel: **0800 038 2323**

Wiltshire Bobby Van (working with Wiltshire Police)

Provide free home security checks for people age 60+. Can also fit a variety of security devices. Tel: **01380 861155**

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Income maximisation check

Age UK Wiltshire offer free checks to ensure you are maximising your entitlement to benefits; we can even help you to apply. If you have health problems or are a carer there may be extra money available which is not means-tested.

Priority Service Registers

Free to join and offer a range of free services and support, including help during a power cut. Tel: **0800 294 3259** (Scottish & Southern power distributors in Wiltshire). Also contact your domestic energy company to register for theirs.

Thames Water 'WaterHelp' scheme

If you are on a low annual household income you can apply for a discount on your water bill. You could also consider a water meter if you are a low user. Tel: **0800 980 8800**

Council Tax Discount (non means-tested)

You could qualify for a discount from Swindon Borough Council if you are a carer (who is caring for someone other than your spouse); or if you have made significant adaptations to your home due to disability; or if someone in the household has cognitive or memory impairment. Tel: 0345 302 2316

Wiltshire Warm & Safe

www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/

Tel: **0800 038 5722**

Comprehensive energy advice service provided by Swindon council and the fire service, in partnership with Centre for Sustainable Energy. Offers advice on eligibility for Affordable Warmth scheme and other grants, energy efficiency, heating controls guidance, helping resolve damp and condensation issues, switching supplier and understanding bills.