Good afternoon,

We hope you are enjoying the wonderful weather.

You may already be aware, but we wanted to ensure you knew of some financial support issued by the Government to off-set rising fuel costs and cost of living.

 **£150 Council Tax Energy Rebate**

As a care leaver, you may be in receipt of a council tax exemption however, you are still entitled to access this fund of £150. The Council Tax Energy Rebate is part of a package of measures announced by the Government to support to help households with rising energy bills.

District Council residents will have received a letter from their District Council of how to apply for this fund, if you have not seen this or misplaced it, then please call or visit your District Council website and search for Council Tax Energy Rebate.

Further information: [Council tax rebate: factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/council-tax-rebate-factsheet)

Link to all Nottinghamshire District Councils: [District and borough councils | Nottinghamshire County Council](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/local/district-councils)

**Cost of Living Payment**

The Cost of Living payment criteria is for those who had an open claim during the period of 26th April 22 – 20th May 22 of:

* Universal Credit (not if open but UC payments reduced to £0 during this period)
* income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
* income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
* Income Support
* Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit
* Working Tax Credits

If you are within the eligibility criteria above, you will be entitled to receive the additional cost of living payment of £650. This will be paid in two payments one of £326 (between 14 -31 July) and the other of £324 in Autumn this year. You do not need to claim this as this is automatically processed and credited to your account by DWP.

Further information is here [Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment)

We are hearing lots in the media of the cost-of-living crisis and how this **will not** be short-lived and will remain throughout the winter when fuel will be needed more. With this in mind, we wanted to advise that when you receive these payments that you plan ahead and budget accordingly to pay credit towards any gas / electric accounts and stock up on non-perishable foods.

We feel it is important to relay this information to prevent any debt being accrued before the winter period and you feeling overwhelmed and unable to manage your finances.

Please note at the bottom of the email we have app store and Google Play links that will take you to our Notts Next Steps app where you can find information about the Nottinghamshire Care Leaver Offer, current training and employment opportunities as well as events and upcoming offers.

**Should you require any additional advice regarding budgeting please get in touch either on this email or the number below.**