

Corona Finance

Financial Guidance for People on Low Incomes During Coronavirus Crisis

Quids in!, the money skills initiative, and Clean Slate Training & Employment CIC have spent over a decade developing information, training and support to help social tenants, benefit claimants and low income earners stretch and grow a limited budget. Guides, web resources, support and training help individuals spend less, save more, borrow less and earn more. A money health-check tool is the latest addition, helping identify steps to boost their financial wellbeing when in crisis and the resilience for the future.

As the indirect implications of the Coronavirus crisis unfold, we are launching a service to tackle the money worries taking root among low income households.

CORONA-FINANCE: GUIDANCE AND REASSURANCE

On 23rd March, *Quids in!* launches a library of Frequently Asked Questions (updated daily), an enhanced money email service, and a web enquiry facility for people scared about how their finances will be hit. In Bath & NE Somerset, Gloucestershire and East London, where Clean Slate runs Quids In Centres, drop-in services have been replaced by phone and email to provide information and reassurance to local people and field questions about money concerns.

BOOSTING RESILIENCE AND SIGNPOSTING SUPPORT

Many low-income earners are at high risk of losing their income and being signposted to benefits. Panic-buying, self-isolation and illness itself is changing how people can spend on essentials. We will provide easy-to-read details and information more targeted specifically at tenants, claimants and low-income earners. They will be more able to access financial and health support, as well as managing what money they have to juggle their household budgets and keep food on the table. We will also guide digitally excluded

people wanting to shop, pay bills and find advice online, and keen to use the web to keep in contact with families and find ways to reduce their outgoings.

THE QUIDS IN! CORONA-FINANCE SERVICE

We aim to work with partners nationwide to:

- Promote access to a free web enquiry service and routinely updated FAQs page on money issues related to the consequences of Coronavirus
- Circulate essential money guidance through a FREE, one-off email to tenants, customers and service users
- Increase contact with tenants, customers and service users through a regular Coronavirus-related financial guidance service, led by the team producing Quids In Readers Club money emails

In Gloucestershire, East London or Bath & NE Somerset, where we have established Quids In Centre teams, partners can take advantage of:

- Local phone and email enquiry service
- Ongoing financial guidance and signposting support beyond the initial enquiry to prevent longer-term crises

JOINING FORCES TO MINIMISE FINANCIAL CRISES

To register your interest in joining forces to help tenants, customers and service users navigate the challenges and support on offer during the Coronavirus crisis:

- Sign up online here: www.socialpublishingproject.com/corona-finance
- Email Dan Fineman on dan@cleanslateltd.co.uk for more information
- If you are in East London, Bath & NE Somerset or Gloucestershire, sign up for updates on local services at: www.cleanslateltd.co.uk/newsletter

