

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme

Changes to the Social Fund and Community Care grants

What is happening?

From 1 April 2013, the Social Fund and Crisis Loans will cease. This means that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will no longer be providing money to deal with emergency situations. A scheme is being established to support people facing hardship and requiring urgent assistance; this is called the **Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS)**

What is the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme?

The Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) can help people going through unexpected difficulties who require urgent assistance. The scheme aims to help you meet your basic needs as quickly as possible and will provide you with the support and advice to help you avoid similar problems in the future.

Who can Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme help?

- You must be over 16 years of age
- You must be on means tested benefits
- You must be facing hardship or dealing with an emergency situation
- You must be registered for council tax in the Peterborough council area
- If you are not in receipt of benefit payments, we may still be able to help you if you are experiencing exceptional difficulties

What help is available?

We can help you in the following ways:

- By providing emergency food
- By providing emergency furniture or other basic needs such as a pram, clothing, toys or household items
- One off emergency heating or lighting payment
- Emergency electrical appliances such as a fridge, microwave, toaster or kettle
- Debt advice
- Helping you to manage your money better
- Banking and saving with Rainbow Saver Credit Union
- Housing and employment advice

If you are provided with help and support through PCAS, please be aware that we will share your information with other partner agencies in order to signpost you to the appropriate organisations for further long term support.

Where do I go for help?

- Emergency food and furniture are provided through a voucher system issued by a number of different agencies in the city. **Please contact one of the agencies listed on the reverse of this leaflet for further information.**
- For advice around debt, housing, employment, emergency heating/lighting, emergency electrical appliances or for any general enquiries, please contact **Citizens Advice Bureau** on pcas@peterboroughcab.org.uk 0844 4994120 or in person at 16-17 St Marks Street, Peterborough PE1 2TU.



Who can help with referrals for emergency food or furniture?

Cross Keys Homes	01733 385000
Accent Nene Housing	01733 295400
Axiom Housing	01733 347135
(If you are a tenant of one of the above landlords)	
Citizens Advice Bureau	0844 4994120
Peterborough City Council	01733 747474
British Red Cross	01733 557472
Aspire Drug Treatment Service	0800 1114354
Drinksense	01733 555532
Women's Aid	01733 894455

Other useful contacts

Rainbow Saver (for advice around budgeting and saving)
3 Cattlemarket Road, Peterborough, PE1 1TW

Peterborough and Fenland Mind (advice and support for people with mental health issues) 01733 758211

Dial Peterborough (advice and support for people with physical disabilities) 01733 265551

Age UK – (advice and support for people aged over 55) 01733 564185

Care and Repair (an agency which assists disabled, aged and vulnerable people to access funding for work in their home) 01733 863895

Department for Work and Pensions (for information on job seekers allowance and other benefits) 0845 6088603

Connexions (for information and advice aimed at young people up to 19 year olds) 01733 864500

