

Our financial wellbeing offer 2024

Introduction

We've probably now all heard about the proposals to change our pay date from on or around the 16th to on or around the 26th of the month.

Whilst this sounds unnerving at first, it may also be an opportunity to do a little housekeeping on our finances. This document contains all the details already included within our financial wellbeing offer

From budget planners to subscriptions there's always something we can be doing to improve our financial wellbeing so here we have provided some simple tips and information on where to receive further guidance and support.

There's also information on how to access a free financial plan and 1 – 1 coaches through our partners at Lifetime.

Check for subscriptions

As we look at our accounts and consider what bills go out (and when) it's a great way to look for anything unexpected.

Through its research, Citizens Advice found one in four people signed up to a subscription by accident with most of those forgetting to cancel at the end of the free month trial period.

Budget Planner

Knowing how to manage a budget – keep track of where every pound is being spent – is a great first step to starting your savings, getting out of debt or preparing for your future.

MoneyHelper has a fantastic [budget planner](#) that will give you:

- a place to record all your spending, so you won't forget anything
- a breakdown of your finances by category
- personalised tips when you're all finished.

Balance transfers

A balance transfer is when you move the balance from one credit or store card to another credit card with a different provider, usually to take advantage of a low or 0% interest rate.

If you're looking to save money or are struggling to pay your credit card bill, [find out if balance transfer is right for you.](#)

[Our Making your money count booklet](#) is full of useful hints and tips on how to save money around the home, where to do your weekly shop for the lowest price with the supermarket comparison app (search Trolley.co.uk).

There's also information on how to have a conversation about money with our friends, family and colleagues.

You'll also find links to information on planning for your retirement including our Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's), benefit scheme.

[Access to a free financial plan](#)

We are always looking at ways to improve on our wellbeing offer, which is why we are pleased to be working with Lifetime, who will work with you to provide access to a free financial plan. By downloading their free app (details below), you'll also gain access to a wealth of information via their knowledge hub along with access to:

- 1:1 support sessions with a coach
- webinars and workshops
- newsletter
- all accessible via a website or app

If you have already completed a budget planner you may already have collected a lot of the information required for your financial plan. If not, we have prepared a [finance checklist](#) to help you save time.

You can access this fantastic opportunity via the [Lifetime website](#) or you can download the free app (lifetime financial wellbeing), from your app store.

When creating your account, please use the access code **LeedsCC34**.

[Money Information Centre](#)

If you're worried about money, debt, struggling to pay bills, the [Money Information Centre](#) provides details of the various organisations and agencies in Leeds that offer help and advice on money.

All the agencies listed offer free, independent and confidential advice covering a wide range of issues associated with welfare benefits, personal debt and affordable credit.

Many of the agencies operate a drop-in service, appointments, home visits and locally based advice surgeries..

[Find services across Leeds](#)

[Money Buddies](#)

[Money Buddies](#) provide one-to one help. They can help you follow the debt advice you've been given by an advisor, work on your budget, input information on to a computer, print letters off for your creditors, maximise your income, and fill out forms to apply for grants.

Money Buddies can also look online for you to find the cheapest gas or electricity supplier and will chat about the most up-to-date ways on how to save money.

Call them or drop-in and chat to them at [one of the surgeries](#) which take place across the city.

MoneyHelper

With [MoneyHelper](#) you can find help, tips and guidance across a whole range of financial topics on their website. Whatever your circumstances or plans, MoneyHelper can help to reduce your spending, clear debts and make the most of your hard-earned income.

Below we have highlighted some of the useful links that can be found on their website long with a contact number should you require any further support.

[Living on a squeezed income](#)

[Beginners guide to managing your money](#)

Vivup

03303 800658

<https://bit.ly/LCC-EAP>

Vivup is our Employee Assistance Programme provider. This is an important service where trained advisors can provide free support and advice to all LCC employees when facing issues such as bereavement, mental health support, trauma, debt or relationship issues. Telephone counselling is available if required.

Staff members can access this service by calling **03303 800658** or go to the [Vivup website](#). This service is confidential, and support is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The website also contains a selection of workbooks and podcasts on various wellbeing topics.