

July 30th 2026

Updated Worrying About Money Leaflet and Online Tool

In partnership with our friends at The Independent Food Aid Network, we have updated our Worrying About Money leaflet.

Much of the information in the older version is still relevant and useful, there have been a few tweaks included in this third version.

You can find the tool and download the leaflet at

<https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/swindon>

You will also soon be able to download and print off a poster and Easy Read version- the final touches are being put to these.

If you would like some physical copies, please let me know.

Citizens Advice Swindon Outreach in August

Need help with benefits, debt and money worries, housing, energy costs or other cost of living challenges.

Financial Wellbeing Advisors from Citizens Advice Swindon will be at the following venues in July, drop in and speak to them.

Every Tuesday	Central Library	12.30m-4pm
Every Wednesday	Park Library, SN3 2LZ	10am-2pm
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Sunday 2 nd	Penhill Fun Day, Sevenfields	12pm-5pm
Thursday 6 th	Highworth Library, Brewery St, SN6 7AJ	10am-11.30am
Saturday 8 th	Haydon Wick Summer Fete	2pm-7pm
Monday 10 th	Community Fridge, Gorse Hill, SN2 1AA	11am-1pm
Saturday 15 th	Pride, GWR Park, SN1 5DJ	11am-6pm
Monday 17 th	North Swindon Library, SN25 4AN	2pm-4pm
Tuesday 18 th	John Moulton Hall, Penhill Drive, SN2 5DU	1pm-2.30pm
Wednesday 19 th	St Mary's Church Hall, SN2 2PF	9.30am-11am
Friday 21 st	Wroughton Library, Barrett Way, SN4 9LW	9.30am-11.30am
Friday 28 th	Meadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent, SN2 7JX	10am-12pm



Understanding Food Banks: Supporting Clients Through Crisis and Beyond

Wednesday 12th August at 10am

During this event, delivered by [FCT \(Food and Community Trust\)](#), we'll explore how food banks support people experiencing financial difficulties, the additional help they can provide, and how money guiders can work more effectively with local food bank services. The session will help practitioners understand referral pathways, recognise when clients may benefit from support, and build stronger partnerships that improve outcomes for those facing financial hardship.

What you'll learn:

- Effective referral pathways and connecting clients to appropriate support.
- Recognising when clients may benefit from food bank support.
- Working in partnership with local food banks to deliver joined-up support.
- Reducing stigma and helping clients access longer-term support, including income maximisation and financial resilience services.
- Understand the role of food banks and the support they provide beyond emergency food.

You can sign up [here](#)

ACL- Getting Connected Courses Coming Up in September

Digital Inclusion is an important element of Financial Wellbeing and Inclusion. One of the ways this is addressed is by the various activities across the town to support people develop confidence and skills with technology. Please see below a message from Jacob at Adult Community Learning in SBC about upcoming courses.



Would you like to feel more confident using a computer, accessing the internet, and managing emails?

Our **FREE Getting Connected Course** is returning this September at **Central Library** and is perfect for complete beginners who want to build essential digital skills.

-  Learn how to use a device and search the internet safely
-  Create and manage an email account
-  Send emails and open attachments
-  Access important online services such as schools, libraries, doctors and dentists
-  Stay safe online

Course Dates: 14th September to 12th October (Mondays)

Choose from two sessions:

Morning Group- 10:15am to 12:15pm

Afternoon Group- 12:45pm to 2:45pm

To request a place: 01793 466482 acl@swindon.gov.uk

Find out more about SBC ACL courses www.swindon.gov.uk/adultlearning

Coping With the Heat- 'Cool Spaces'

It has been little cooler over the past couple of weeks, but we are still in the middle of some unseasonably warm weather and it seems that it is not a case of if we have another heatwave, but when.

Thank you to all of you Welcome Spaces who have responded to the request to share details of hot weather provision (air con, refreshments, shade etc.) it has been very useful. I am compiling the information gathered- have shared with colleagues and will soon ask our excellent web team to update the pages of the SBC website.

It is really appreciated how you do your very best to offer a safe, secure and welcome place for folk in Swindon- of course this includes shelter from the range of weather we are challenged with.

With all of this in mind, I have attached some useful information that has been shared by Warm Welcome UK- <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/blog/cool-spaces-guidance>

It includes some useful tips and information about coping with the hot weather, it is well worth a read.

I have also included some other resources that may be of use, including:

- **'Beat the Heat'** poster from the UK Health Security Agency.

You can download the poster and find more resources, including Easy Read and translated versions at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beat-the-heat-hot-weather-advice>

Connect to Work

Please find attached and information below about a programme running to support people back in employment.

Connect to Work is a free and voluntary programme designed to help people in Swindon and Wiltshire who are finding it hard to start or stay in work due to health conditions, disabilities, or other barriers.

Connect to Work offers personalised, one-to-one coaching and support. With a flexible, understanding approach focusing on your strengths, goals and what matters to you most.

<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/connect-to-work/>

Do Swindon Website

You may be aware of the brilliant new website highlighting things on, things to do and places to visit in Swindon. It is an excellent site which highlights how great our town is. Lots of free things to do are included. It is very much worth a look.

You might even like to think about adding events or things that you do.

<https://www.doswindon.co.uk/>

Summer in Swindon

The Swindon Borough Council website has a new page which offers guidance and information about what to do during the summer holidays (for free), places to visit (for free) and where to find support.

You can find out more by visiting

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/summerinswindon>

Literacy Trust in Swindon- Summer Events

Our friends at the National Literacy Trust have put together a list of free activities taking place throughout the summer, for families with little ones+. Please find it attached; please have a look and reshare as needed.

They would like to particularly like to highlight thier read-in, which is happening next Wednesday (5th) at The Brunel.

This is all-age but has a focus on activities for EY/Primary to help families with wider reading engagement - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1460054655884162>

Childcare Support and Early Years Funding Information This Summer.

Lynne and Gemma from SBC's wonderful Parent Support and Engagement Team will be out and about throughout July and August, providing childcare information for parents. Plus, you will receive a free book while stocks last.

They will be at the following locations:

Sunday 2nd August at the Sevenfields Community Event, Sevenfields, Penhill (SN2 5DE) from 12 noon until 4pm

Wednesday 5th August at the Coate Water Splash Park (SN3 6AA) from 10.30am until 3pm (weather permitting)

Friday 21st August at the Designer Outlet Village (SN2 2DY) from 10am until 2pm

The Parent Support and Engagement Team can be contacted on

EY&CBrokerage@swindon.gov.uk

Potential 'Summer at the Green' Outreach Festival

This time last year many of us were preparing for the Summer at the Green which took place every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday during August at Wharf Green.

It was fun-filled and a great chance for outreach.

Sadly, there are no plans to repeat this on the same scale as before- but the possibility of running a one-day Outreach Festival at Wharf Green has been raised.

This will offer the chance for organisations to come along to bring a garden or two, and information about their service.

If you would like to find out more or even get involved in the event, please let me know at mtidey@swindon.gov.uk

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation Grants and Funding With Upcoming Deadlines

Below is a reminder of the National Benevolent Charity Hardship Grant and a summary, shared by Pooja at Voluntary Action Swindon, of current funding programmes from the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation that may be of interest to voluntary and community organisations, as well as individuals and groups across Wiltshire and Swindon. Please review the details below and visit the Foundation's website for full guidance, eligibility criteria and application information.

National Benevolent Charity – Financial Hardship Grants

Grants of **£150–£750** are available to individuals living in Wiltshire, Swindon, Gloucestershire and Bristol to help with the costs of essential household goods, white goods, food, clothing, priority debts, bankruptcy fees, work tools, training and floor coverings. [Grants for individuals](#)

Who can apply: Individuals aged 18 or over who are experiencing financial hardship and meet the charity's eligibility criteria.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation – Youth Partnership Learning and Development Grants

Grants of up to **£3,000** are available to help youth organisations develop the skills of staff and volunteers through qualifications, training, conferences, coaching, mentoring and other professional development opportunities. The programme is delivered through the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Partnership with funding from Wiltshire Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Application deadline: Wednesday 12th August 2026

[Learning and Development Grants | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

Who can apply: Youth organisations operating across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation – Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund

Grants of up to **£5,000** are available to voluntary and community groups delivering activities that support priorities within the Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Plan 2025–2029. Projects should contribute to reducing violence and serious harm, tackling crimes affecting local communities, and improving the experience of victims while supporting the delivery of justice.

Application deadline: Monday 17th August 2026 at midday (12 noon)

[Police and Crime Commissioner Community Action Fund Grants | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

Who can apply: Voluntary and community organisations across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation – Older People's Programme

Grants of **£1,000 to £5,000 per year** for one or two years are available to support projects benefiting older people. Grants of up to **£10,000** for one year may be considered for projects demonstrating significant reach and impact. Projects must improve health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation, or improve access to facilities and services.

Application deadline: Monday 21st September 2026 at midday (12 noon)

[Older People's Programme | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

Who can apply: Voluntary and community organisations supporting older people across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation – Community Grants

Grants of up to **£6,000 per year** for up to **three years** are available to voluntary organisations delivering projects that improve the lives of people and communities across Wiltshire and Swindon. The Foundation is particularly interested in projects that tackle poverty and inequality, prevent or alleviate poor mental health, and support children and young people.

Application deadline: Saturday 17th October 2026

[Community Grants | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

Who can apply: Voluntary and community organisations across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Funding for Individuals • Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation – Vocational Grants

Grants of up to **£1,000** are available to young people aged **14–24** to support vocational study at sixth form or college, or to undertake an apprenticeship. Applicants must have lived in Wiltshire or Swindon for at least two years and meet the programme's eligibility criteria relating to income or care status.

Application deadline: Friday 16th October 2026

[Vocational Support Grant | Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation](#)

Who can apply: Eligible individuals aged 14–24 living in Wiltshire or Swindon.

Art Group- Ipsum Care at Swindon Hub

Ipsum Care, in collaboration with the Swindon Hub and Voluntary Action Swindon, has been hosting a regular art group where people can come together, relax and have fun! These are free drop-in sessions for anyone to attend!

When: 8th July and 22nd June.

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Where: Swindon Hub, Swindon SN1 1BA

Safe & Warm Grassroots Communities Scheme



Please see the message below from Pooja at Voluntary Action Swindon

I'm getting in touch on behalf of the Centre for Sustainable Energy; who are a national, independent energy charity based in Bristol. They're offering funding to grassroots organisations to provide energy saving advice and support to vulnerable households to help them stay safe and warm. The scheme is funded by three gas distribution networks: SGN, Northern Gas Networks (NGN), and Wales and West Utilities (WWU).

Grants of £8,000 - £14,000 are available for projects to deliver:

- Personalised energy advice
- Carbon Monoxide safety awareness
- Support to join the Priority Services Register (a simple sign up which offers extra security and support in the event of an unplanned power outage)
- Other wellbeing and crisis support including benefits checks, support with digital skills and support to access emergency funding schemes

This fund is aimed at small, grassroots organisations who have experience supporting people who are vulnerable and most at risk of fuel poverty. Training will be provided to successful applicants so previous experience providing energy advice is not required.

Organisations must be based within the [SGN, NGN and WWU network areas](#) and project delivery should take place between 1 September 2026 and 31 May 2027.

The deadline to apply is **11am on Monday 10th August 2026**.

[Find out more and how to apply here.](#)

They're also an informational webinar, where you can find out more about the scheme, get tips on what we're looking for in the application and ask questions. The session will be recorded so if you can't make it, please register anyway and we will share the recording and slides.

1pm, Wednesday 29th July – [register on Zoom here](#).

Please feel free to share this opportunity within your networks. If you have any questions, get in touch at safeandwarmcommunities@cse.org.uk