

Housing Brief

Advising and supporting our tenants to enjoy their homes

The cost of living crisis is starting to bite..

We understand that the current cost of living crisis is adding financial pressure to your household budgets, so in this briefing we will provide you with important links and ways to get support.



As one of the largest increases is for heating costs, the Association will be continuing to work with Allenergy to offer you financial assistance with fuel debt and the ongoing costs for coal, electric and oil, along with assistance to top up your meter with fuel vouchers.

Allenergy can also provide you with advice and assistance on heat use, billing problems and to identify other support you may need. This invaluable service offers realistic help with dedicated funding for LHA tenants.

You can contact Allenergy directly or speak to your Housing Officer. All the contacts details you need are over the page.

Our handy **Monthly Household Budget Planner** can also help you balance your income and expenses. Why not download a copy and complete it today?

<https://lochaberhousing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Tenant-Monthly-Budget-Planner.pdf>

LHA will be working with Allenergy and other partners to hold an event for the tenants and residents of Lochaber, to raise awareness on what help is available. This event is planned for the 26th August at Lochaber Hope, New Connections (located at the old Job Centre Fort William). More details will follow.

With the price cap due to increase from October, there is no better time than now to seek advice.

The Association is also looking at new opportunities for assisting tenants with the cost of living, however if you are struggling, please contact your Housing Officer without delay.

Click on the picture below and see how Allenergy and the Lochaber Affordable Warmth Service can assist you.

Lochaber Affordable Warmth Service

in partnership with

ALIENERGY
ARGYLL, LOMOND & THE ISLANDS ENERGY AGENCY

funded by the Energy Redress Scheme



Who can I speak to?

Your Housing Officer can be contacted directly on:

Jennifer MacInnes 07554 945 973

Melody Robinson 07464 829 028

Tony Dickson 07717 684 004

or by emailing: housingmgt@lochaberhousing.org.uk

You can contact Allenergy by telephone: **01631 565183**

or visiting - www.alienergy.org.uk



Where else can I get advice and support?

The UK Government has put support in place towards fuel costs and will be offering this financial support via fuel suppliers. The money will be awarded directly to your fuel bill. For the many on key meters, the meter will be credited by your fuel supplier. More information can be found on the Government website - www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer

Citizens Advice Scotland provides free, impartial and confidential advice and information to give you the tools you need to sort out any issues or problems.

Money Map – this fantastic tool signposts you to all the best websites to access support to boost incomes, save money and cut the cost of daily living - www.moneymap.scot

Council Tax Savings Tool – this tool assesses eligibility for council tax reductions, discounts and exemptions and signposts to where you can claim these savings - www.checkmycounciltax.scot

CAB Lochaber – your local office can be contacted via - www.lochabercab.org.uk or telephone: **01397 705311**. They are located at Dudley Rd, Fort William, PH33 6JB

Highland Council Welfare Support Team – can be contacted via email welfare.support@highland.gov.uk or telephone: **0800 090 1004**

Shelter Scotland - https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice

Money Advice Scotland - www.moneyadvicescotland.org.uk/help-for-people-with-money-worries

Money Advice Scotland provides help with energy costs - www.moneyadvicescotland.org.uk/Listing/Category/help-with-energy-costs

During this difficult time, we appreciate the cost of living is challenging for many, however, the Government protection for rent arrears during COVID-19 has ended and the legal processes for pursuing rent arrears are now back to normal.

If you are struggling, please speak to your Housing Officer as soon as possible, don't risk losing your home through non payment or non-engagement.

You can prevent this by speaking to us.

