

The end of the crisis loan, the birth of the local assistance scheme...

The coalition government has ended the 'Crisis Loan', service from the DWP at the end of March 2013. It has replaced the said service, by giving local councils a finite pot of money, who in turn are then forwarding the responsibility to Citizens Advice Bureaus. Instead of receiving money anymore, providing that they can fulfil the required criteria, applicants can apply for:

- 'Food for yourself and other members of your household,
- Essential items of furniture and bedding,
- Basic equipment for cooking and heating,
- Fuel to cook or to heat essential rooms,
- Help to make an essential journey that was not expected.'

Should you decide that any of the above would be useful, when you visit your LOCAL Citizens Advice Bureau you will have to bring the following pieces of information:

- Proof of your identity,
- Proof of your address,
- Proof of your income (benefits or otherwise),

As well as your providing the above information, you will also have to meet the following conditions:

- That you are on a low income (normally means-tested benefits),
- That you do not have enough money to buy what you need,
- That you have tried other services of help first and these have not been able to help you. For example, a short term benefits advance, a budgeting loan, family or friends,
- That you apply to the advice bureau in the district of Somerset you live in.



Compass Carers Information Sheet

Bearing in mind the hoops that people are expected to jump through in order to qualify for the above assistance, then if you simply require food, then referring yourself a local food bank for help may prove easier (as you will only end up getting referred to one anyway).

The SCC page referring to the Local Assistance Scheme can be found here...

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/help-with-basic-household-essentials/>

Citizens Advice Bureau Contact Information:

Taunton Deane CAB:

St Mary's House, Magdalene Street, Taunton, TA1 1SB.

Telephone: 01823 282235

*Calls are charged at your local network rate.

Lines open: Mon - Fri: 10am - 4pm, Wednesday – 1pm to 6.30pm,

www.tauntoncab.org.uk

Mendip CAB:

Highfield House, Cannards Grave Road.

Telephone: 03444 889623.

Open: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 10am – 1.00pm

www.mendipcab.org.uk

Sedgemoor CAB:

Royal Clarence House

High Street

Bridgwater

TA6 3BH

Telephone: 03 444 88 9623

Open: Monday to Friday – 10am to 1pm,

www.sedgemoorcab.org.uk

South Somerset CAB:

Petters House

Petters Way



Compass Carers Information Sheet

Yeovil

Somerset

Telephone: 03 444 889623

Open: Monday to Friday – 10am to 4pm (Thursdays – appointments only),

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

West Somerset Advice Bureau:

Market House Lane, Minehead, TA24 5NW.

Telephone: 01643 704624.

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 10am to 3pm,

Wednesday – 10am to 1pm (closed first Wednesday of the month),

www.westsomersetadvice.org.uk

Compass Carers

Compass Disability Services

11-12 Belvedere Trading Estate, Taunton, TA1 1BH

Tel: 01823 255911 Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

Fax: 01823 351790

Factsheet 0036 v3

Last reviewed: Feb 2016

Next review due: Feb 2017

Email: info@compasscarers.org.uk

