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# Council and Community Help



Whether you need information on school clothing grants and/or meals, budgeting advice, support with benefit applications or getting into work, East Renfrewshire Council and our partners are here to help. Please click on cards below for more information.

The Money Advice and Rights Team (MART)

MART offer expert and confidential advice on money worries, benefits and budgeting. They can help with benefit applications and appeals to make sure you have your household income maximised by making sure you have all the benefits you are entitled to. They can also support you with you debt and t can speak to your creditors on your behalf, whilst helping you understand what the people you owe money to can and cannot do.

Call 0141 577 8420 or email [mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

There are lots of other specialist services in East Renfrewshire:

Work East Ren

Work East Ren help people aged 16+ in East Renfrewshire to get ready for, find and keep work. The team aim to help local residents find the education, training or employment they are most suited to. Work East Ren also supports employers with recruitment, work placements and experience, and accessing funding and support.

To find out more, visit: [www.workeastren.co.uk/](http://www.workeastren.co.uk/)

Parental Support Fund

MART and Work East Ren work in Partnership to deliver the Parental Support Fund.

The programme will help in meeting the increasing challenge of in-work poverty, targeting support to help parents already in jobs support through the provision of training and employability support to remain active in the workplace and gain progression through a rewarding career. The team will also provide confidential income and money advice support.

To find out more call [0141 577 8438](tel:01415778438) or email [Naomi.Nicol@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.Nicol@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Adult Learning

The Adult Learning Team offer a range of learning opportunities for adults in East Renfrewshire. Courses can help you gain new skills or qualifications, get a new job, go to college or just build confidence with existing skills you already have.

To find out more, visit: [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/adultlearning)

Education

Clothing grants, free school meals and Education Maintenance are available in all our schools for eligible families.

 Back to School Bank East Renfrewshire provides brand new school uniforms to families affected by financial hardship. To find out more, visit: www.facebook.com/backtoschoolbankeastrenfrewshire/

Free school meal and clothing Grants check eligibility at <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

 Children who are entitled free school meal  pupils can access a food pack if they are off school due to Covid19 call us on 0141 577 3575.

Free Sanitary Products

Up to 25% of women have had difficulties accessing sanitary products at some point due to financial constraints. To challenge this we’ve made a variety of sanitary products available in buildings including schools and health centres, Citizens Advice Bureau, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire and housing associations. These products are available to everyone, regardless of their financial position.

Citizen’s Advice Bureau

CAB can help with debt and money advice, completion of benefit application and appeal forms, benefit appeal representation. They also run the Patient Advice Service, Armed Services Advice Project, Helping East Renfrewshire Online (HERO) service, employment advice and assistance with homelessness/evictions.

The team is working from home with advice available over the phone. You can contact CAB on 0141 881 2032 or visit: [www.cas.org.uk/bureaux/east-renfrewshire-citizens-advice-bureau](http://www.cas.org.uk/bureaux/east-renfrewshire-citizens-advice-bureau) where you will find direct mobile numbers for specialist advisers.

Fair Start Scotland

The Fair Start team can provide tailor-made support for 12 – 18 months to anyone living in East Renfrewshire who is not working or in education. Despite pausing face-to-face to contact, Fair Start is available over the phone, on email and through text messages.

Fair Start can also support employers with recruitment needs. Get in touch with Fair Start by phoning 0300 303 3381 or visit: www.thewisegroup.co.uk/fairstart/

Home Energy Scotland

If you need help to stay warm, make best use of energy and save money on fuel bills, contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 or email [adviceteam@sc.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:adviceteam@sc.homeenergyscotland.org)

Social Security Scotland

Some benefits are provided by an organisation called Social Security Scotland. There are currently eight with more being added to the list in future. Click the links to find out more and how you can apply for them.

* [Carer’s Allowance Supplement](https://www.mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement/)
* [Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment](https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/)
* [Best Start Grant - Early Learning Payment](https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/)
* [Best Start Grant - School Age Payment](https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/)
* [Best Start Foods](https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/)
* [Funeral Support Payment](https://www.mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment/)
* [Young Carer Grant](https://www.mygov.scot/young-carer-grant/)
* [Job Start Payment](https://www.mygov.scot/job-start-payment/)
* [Scottish Child Payment](https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/scottish-child-payment/#:~:text=When the Scottish Child Payment was first announced,policy impacts it will have More items... )

If you are unsure about what you are entitled to, you can contact the Council’s Money Advice and Rights Team or CAB.  They can help with anything you need to know about benefits and grant eligibility, health-related issues, redundancy, retirement and pensions, death and bereavement, housing, children, cold weather and winter fuel payments.

Call MART 0141 577 8420 or email [mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

CAB 0141 881 2032

The Scottish Government’s website provides information on other benefits and grants not listed above. To find out more, visit: [www.mygov.scot/benefits](http://www.mygov.scot/benefits)

Full details on East Renfrewshire’s Covid response can be found at :

<https://covid.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/home>