



East Renfrewshire Citizens

Advice Bureau Weekly Update

21/01/2021

Good News Story - Housing

Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS)

Part of our work in ERCAB Housing is to run the East Renfrewshire Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS) from funding provided by East Renfrewshire Council.

Most private sector Landlords ask for a cash deposit as a security before agreeing to a tenancy. The deposit usually covers any damage or unpaid rent whilst the tenant is living there. Some people are unable to afford the deposit and one month's rent in advance so can seek assistance through the scheme. The RDS provides a guarantee agreement to underwrite the deposit, which last up to 12 months. It is open to anyone over 16 who have been assessed as having housing needs and requires assistance to access private rented accommodation as a suitable, affordable choice. Its aim is to help reduce/prevent homelessness. The tenant must be able to afford the rent (through earnings or benefits) but may need help to cover the initial costs in securing private rented accommodation. We work closely with both tenants and landlords and advise on all aspects of the tenancy.

We have successfully managed to secure 2 separate tenancies for clients within the past month, both in Barrhead. One moved into his tenancy just before Christmas and the other just last week. We have helped the clients manage their benefits accordingly and processed all the relevant paperwork, even whilst working from home.

Money Advice

With the on-going COVID-19 crisis, the Accountant in Bankruptcy (AiB) has announced a further temporary change to the Debt Arrangement Scheme (DAS). Called 'The Low and Grow' approach, it allows debtors to start repaying their debts through DAS at a lower rate, increasing once circumstances improve.

If you need debt advice then, please call our Debt Adviser, Julie on; **07901 607309**.

Connecting Scotland – Phase 2

ERCAB are pleased to announce that we are taking part in the second phase of Connecting Scotland. Devices have now been received for Connecting Scotland and we have been in contact with all clients who were previously put forward for this to arrange collection / delivery of the devices. As such we have additional Chromebooks and MiFi Devices available for clients who fall under the eligibility criteria for Phase 2.

This criterion is as follows:

1. digitally excluded – do not already own/or have an appropriate device and/or are not connected to the internet at home; **AND**
2. on low incomes so cannot afford to buy a device or pay for internet access;
3. and **ARE EITHER**
 - a. households with children or where a child is normally resident (this includes pregnant women with no child in the household): **OR**
 - b. care leavers up to the age of twenty-six (in line with eligibility for aftercare support)

For further information on this, contact our HERO Adviser, Ainsley on **07594156780**.

Driver Support Scheme

The Scottish Government have established a specific fund to provide financial support to taxi and private hire vehicle drivers in Scotland in recognition of the significant disruption that they have experienced as a result of restrictions introduced to control the spread of COVID-19. ERC will be administering this fund locally and is providing one-off grants of £1,500 to those who meet the eligibility criteria. ERC aim to make this payment promptly and within a maximum of a four week period from receipt of application and all relevant supporting information required, and where all the eligibility criteria have been met.

Applications will be open from midday on Friday 22nd January 2021. Please call any our advisers on **0141 881 2032** for assistance with this process.

Application Link; www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/driver-support-scheme

Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page. Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

Email -bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk

Tel - **0141 881 2032**