

Responding together as One Stockport to the cost-of-living crisis

Dear Partner,

On behalf of the [One Health and Care Board](#) and Stockport Council we would like to thank all our local partners, businesses, voluntary and community organisation for everything you are already doing to support our communities as we find ourselves in one of the most turbulent and difficult financial periods this country has seen for many years.

Yesterday at the One Health and Care Board, we agreed to further our efforts to combat the current cost-of-living crisis, and we are now seeking to ensure the continued support and input from all our partners, businesses and the third sector to help and support those most in need this winter.

The impact of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis means many individuals and families will face challenges as they try to make ends meet. We are living in unprecedented times that are changing week by week, day by day, hour by hour.

In this context, whether you are a local voluntary and community organisation, a public sector body or a Stockport business employing local people or wanting to help your community, you play such a vital role, and we are incredibly grateful for all you are doing to support the people of Stockport through the difficult times ahead.

We recognise the incredible effort we are seeing across the borough as we brace ourselves for the difficult winter that many residents will face. Despite these challenges, we know that by working together, as One Stockport, we can galvanise and coordinate a strong response to the cost-of-living crisis – a response stronger than any of us can achieve individually. We may not have all the answers, but by collaborating, supporting each other and joining forces, we can add strength to our efforts.

We heard this message loud and clear at the recent [cost-of-living roundtable event](#).

We also heard the need for co-ordinated communications across all our networks and partners, so its clear what support is available and how to access it.

Our Pledges - working together

Today the One Health and Care Partnership Board have committed to five key pledges:

- Together, we will **identify and protect** those Stockport residents and businesses who are **most vulnerable** with a focus on **keeping people safe**;
- Together, we will **maximise and generate support** and ensure help is available for Stockport residents and businesses through **coordinated and effective communication**;

- Together, we will delve deep into **neighbourhoods** to make sure support is available in our communities and that this **support is coordinated**;
- Together we will **join up our work** with the wider public sector support on offer at this time of year (such as our work to address winter health pressures) to **maximise our impact**;
- Together we will **create a legacy** from our cross-sector response to collectively **tackle poverty** across the borough.

So this letter outlines how the One Health and Care Board and the Council are already mobilising and supporting our communities, and we want to find better ways of networking and communicating over the coming weeks and months to ensure that we are doing all we can together.

The information below outlines just some of the co-ordinated actions already underway and how you can get directly involved today.

We will also establish a Cost of Living Task Force to provide focus and leadership moving forward.

We will communicate again shortly to keep you all engaged and informed. If there is one thing you do as a result of this letter, please email us at communications@stockport.gov.uk so that we can ensure you receive regular updates about how we are responding to the cost of living crisis together and how you can get involved.

Thank you for your continued efforts and support.



Mark Hunter

Cllr Mark Hunter – Leader of Stockport Council and Chair of the One Health and Care Board



Caroline Simpson

Caroline Simpson – Chief Executive, Stockport Council and Place-based Lead for the One Health and Care Board

Our call to action as One Stockport to the cost-of-living crisis

Our actions so far

We know that pledges in themselves aren't enough, which is why we are already taking immediate action to support our most at risk residents through these unparalleled challenges.

- **Warm Spaces Scheme** - We have established a Warm Spaces scheme. This has had a phenomenal response with over 60 local organisations working with Stockport Council to provide over 100 warm places across the borough, with provision in every ward, for our residents who may be struggling with the cost of heating their homes.
- **Stockport Business Resilience Forum** - As well as supporting our residents, we are also working with our business and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector partners to support the resilience of Stockport businesses and VCFSE organisations through this ongoing crisis. The Stockport Business Resilience Forum will be reinstated which will create a network of support where colleagues can learn from each other about new ideas and information on cutting operating and supply chain costs, including exploring the ability to support a platform for collective purchasing of energy.
- **Cost-of-Living Information Hub** – our cost-of-living hub is available on Stockport Council's website and continues to be developed to signpost residents and businesses to the very latest support and help that is available – www.stockport.gov.uk/costofliving
- **Cost-of-Living Helpline** - We will establish a cost-of-living helpline, to help those residents who are not able to access information online to get to the support they need. Further details will be shared once this is open for calls.
- **SMART Money Advice Tool** - To mark the end of Challenge Poverty Week, the council has launched a 'SMART money advice tool' for all front-facing colleagues and partners, across the borough. This tool has been developed to signpost and, importantly, refer residents to appropriate local support when they are in need and ask for help.
- **Cost of living support leaflets and posters** – we know that not everyone is online and have produced a range of cost of living leaflets and posters to let residents know where they can get support.

Our call to action

Whether small or big, any efforts we can all make collectively will have a bigger impact than we can each have alone. As we proved during the pandemic, we are stronger and better able to tackle these challenges when we work together as 'One Stockport'.

There are a number of ways that any organisation in Stockport can get involved and be part of our collective efforts to support residents through these tough times:

- Tell us what your pledges are to support the borough through the cost-of-living crisis by emailing us at communications@stockport.gov.uk. You will be added to our cost-of-living mailing list where we will be sharing regular news about our collective efforts to support the people of Stockport.
- Spread the word – add the link to the Cost-of-Living Information Hub to your own website, newsletters or other communications – www.stockport.gov.uk/costofliving - and ask us for posters and leaflets that you can share in your venues and with the people you meet by emailing communications@stockport.gov.uk.
- If you are able to do so, sign up to be a “warm space” this winter: a place for people to visit for free between November 2022 and March 2023, without any pressure of buying something. To add your “warm space” to the council’s interactive map, [please fill out the form](#)
- If you are involved in working with members of the public, share the SMART Money Advice Tool (attached to this letter) with your networks and colleagues so any resident who comes for help can access the support they need quickly, which we hope you find a helpful step towards a collective and coordinated response to tackling poverty across the borough.
- If you are able to provide advice or support for local businesses and community organisations join our Economic Resilience Forum by emailing us at EconomyWS@stockport.gov.uk

As we take these steps together, we can ensure that our collective and coordinated response to addressing the cost of living crisis and tackling poverty in the longer term across the borough has the greatest impact possible.