

Lewes District Cost-of-Living Partners Action Group:

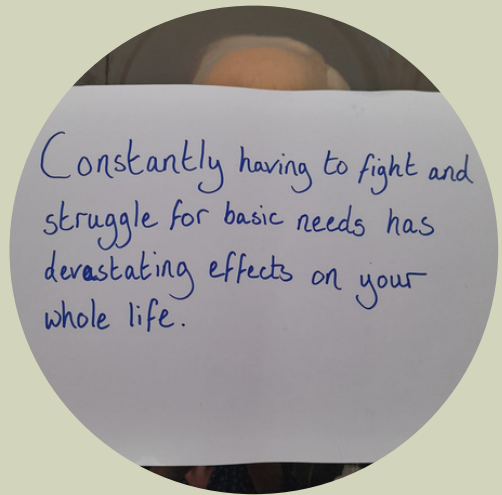


Call for increased support for residents and the projects delivering vital services.

The Cost-of-Living Partners Action Group (CoLPAG), chaired by Lewes District Council, are a coalition of 25 charities and community organisations including council representatives supporting residents of Lewes District through the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

The Government announced in the Autumn Statement that they would not be extending the Household Support Fund beyond March 2024. CoLPAG and Lewes District Food Partnership question:

- **why is this support from the Government being removed at such a vital time?**
- **what support will be made available to residents and to the projects that support people experiencing hardship and poverty?**



Constantly having to fight and struggle for basic needs has devastating effects on your whole life.

SOME FOOD BANKS IN LEWES DISTRICT HAVE EXPERIENCED A 60% INCREASE IN MEMBERS IN JUST ONE YEAR.

The Lewes District CoLPAG coalition supports the aims of the Trussell Trust & Joseph Rowntree Foundation 'Guarantee Our Essentials' campaign to:

- **Call on UK political party leaders to support the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee within Universal Credit to ensure that the basic rate at least covers life's essentials, such as food and bills**
- **To increase the basic rate of UC to at least £120 a week** (whilst we welcome the news that the government has increased UC in the Autumn Statement it still isn't enough to cover basic essentials)
- **That the basic rate is continually reviewed** and set against levels of inflation and the cost-of-living.

90% OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT ARE CURRENTLY GOING WITHOUT ESSENTIALS.

We call for our local political representatives to:

- **support the #GuaranteeOurEssentials Campaign**
- **to attend a meeting with the Cost-of-Living Partners Action Group to discuss the sustainability of community projects supporting residents**

We pen this joint letter as groups and organisations working with residents to call for action on the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Signed by.....

- Lewes District Food Partnership
- Lewes District Emergency Food Network
- Tech Resort CIC
- 3VA
- Tenants of Lewes District
- Lewes District CAB
- Malling Food Bank
- OVESCO
- Hastings (1066) Citizens Advice
- Sussex Community Development Association
- Fitzjohns Food Bank
- Landport Food Bank
- Councillor Christine Robinson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing - Lewes District Council)
- Penny Shimmin (CEO Sussex Community Development Association)



**Contact: info@lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org
www.lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org**

We pen this joint letter as local political representatives to call for action on the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Signed by.....

- **Councillor Ian Alexander (Chair of Lewes District Council)**
- **Emily O'Brien (Cabinet member for climate, nature and food systems)**

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