



East Renfrewshire Citizens

Advice Bureau Weekly Update

01/06/2023

Older People's Project

ERCAB have recently received funding for a brand new project called the Older People's Project. The main aim of this project is to encourage older people within East Renfrewshire to claim benefits that they may be entitled to. Unfortunately, it is all too common for older people across East Renfrewshire to struggle with their finances. With rising utility bills and lower pensions, more and more people are forced into making sacrifices for the sake of their finances. The number of pensioners living below the poverty line in the UK is now over two million.

Fortunately, there are some helpful benefits which are available for pensioners and older people. There are a range of social security payments, including Pension Credit, Council Tax Reduction, Attendance Allowance and Older Carers.

Our older people's project adviser, Sarah, will be out within the community and will be the main point of contact for elderly people seeking financial help. Sarah will be targeting areas in which the elderly people of East Ren are known to frequent such as, supermarkets, community groups, church groups, women's guild and health centres, etc. A lack of awareness is one of the main reasons in which the elderly generation don't claim the financial support that they are entitled to. By going into the community, advertising the project and introducing herself to these groups, she will be able to raise the awareness of the benefits available for older people and help them to claim.

This is an exciting and rewarding new project which will hopefully make a huge difference to the elderly community within East Renfrewshire. If you have any questions or think that you may be entitled to financial help, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah on 0141 881 2032 or pop into the office. Drop-in sessions across East Ren will also soon be available and information on this will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

Email-ere-ureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with recent news from ERCAB via our social media platforms. Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page.

Facebook-***EastRenfrewshireCAB*** & Twitter ***@EastAdvice***

Good News Story

Our client has been on Personal Independence Payment for several years and we assisted him in completing his standard review form at the end of 2022. His award was made up of Enhanced Daily Living and standard mobility worth £116.85 to client each week. When the client received his review decision this award was reduced to standard Daily Living only which at £61.85 per week significantly reduced the client's income by £55 per week. This created further anxiety and financial worry for client when there has been no change to his health conditions or how they impact him. We assisted client by completing a mandatory reconsideration although this was unsuccessful. We then assisted client as his representative and logged an appeal to challenge this decision through Her Majesty's Court & Tribunal Services. The client was anxious about the appeal process but with our help wanted to challenge it, a few weeks later we received a call from DWP to discuss the client's case. After a lengthy discussion DWP offered to reinstate his award to the original amount until February 2027. I called the client to advise. He was relieved and extremely happy that he did not need to attend an actual hearing or deal directly with the DWP. This had been causing him some stress. He was extremely thankful for our help and glad to see his award reinstated, especially in these difficult economic times. Our assistance resulted in a client financial gain of £55 per week, totalling £10,275 over the duration of award.

ASAP

The Armed Services Advice Project provides support on a range of issues including Benefits, Housing, Debt and Money.

We support people who are:

Serving in the Armed Forces, Regular or Reserve and their dependants.

Ex - service, regular or Reserve and their dependants.

Members of the Merchant Navy who served in a commercial vessel in support of legally defined UK military operations or a dependant.

Our Asap Advisor Carla covers East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde and currently has a weekly outreach Every Wednesday 10-1pm at The Erskine Reid Macewan Activities Centre.

If you would like support or advice it's easy to get in touch. You can either pop into our Barrhead Bureau, Call 0141881 2032 and ask for Carla or you can email Direct at Carla.ferguson@eastfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk