

# Supporting Worcestershire residents with the rising cost of living

As the cost of living is expected to rise this winter, your circumstances could change, and you may need information or support on a variety of matters. We have compiled some information on services available from Worcestershire Libraries to help you to understand what is available through our library network.

## **Worcestershire Libraries provide a warm and welcoming space**

Worcestershire Libraries are part of the **Warm Welcome Network** which lists venues that can provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter: [Find a Warm Welcome Space Today](#)

## **Connecting with others and avoiding isolation**

The 21 libraries across the County are open to all, providing a network of warm, welcoming spaces for residents to access free services, find information and support, take part in events and activities and connect with other people.

Libraries offer a wide range of free services to allow Worcestershire residents to stay connected:

- ❖ Welcoming and warm spaces to work, study, read & research or meet with friends
- ❖ Shared Connections Groups: opportunities to connect with like-minded people over a shared interest or experience, e.g., readers groups, knit & natter groups, carers groups, language groups, dementia groups, film clubs, Ukraine Connections groups
- ❖ Free events and activities for all ages, from Storytime, Bounce & Rhyme for pre-school children to Lego Club, book clubs, coding clubs and homework help for children, study support for young people, health walks and workshops and talks for adults
- ❖ Volunteering and work experience: a wide range of opportunities for all ages

[Worcestershire Libraries | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## **Getting to grips with finances**

Specialist book collections are available through the library network which can provide advice on money management, living on a budget and energy efficiency. Library membership is free and library members can borrow books download e-books, audiobooks, e-magazines, e-newspapers and search online reference sources for free.

[Worcestershire Libraries | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## **Understanding what support is available**

Library staff are trained and equipped to provide information and signposting to council services as well as other local community organisations providing support with the rising cost of living. Visit your local library for information: [Find a Library | Find a Library | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## **Improving skills and work opportunities**

Support is available in all libraries to help develop skills, find work and information in relation to setting up a business. Libraries host adult learning classes, free Job Clubs and Job Fairs and six libraries are home to Business and Intellectual Property Centres offering advice, online resources, business webinars and one-to-one support for individuals looking to set up or grow a business.

Job Centre Plus services are also located in Redditch, Kidderminster and Malvern libraries.

Worcestershire's 21 public libraries provide free access to computers, the internet and Wi-Fi and support from Digital Champions to develop IT skills and gain confidence to access online services.

[Find a Library | Find a Library | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## **Managing wellbeing and coping with stress**

The library network provides Reading Well collections for all ages, offering self-help advice for managing common mental health and wellbeing challenges.

[Reading Well in Worcestershire Libraries | Worcestershire County Council](#)