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**Could you qualify for an extra £65 a week, cheaper broadband or help to stay warm?**

*East Sussex County Council sent this bulletin at 02-12-2022 04:21 PM GMT*

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Let's look after ourselves and each other through this winter and through these tough times.**  **Cheaper broadband and phone packages**  [Graphic to advertise Government's social tariffs scheme](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs)  Low-cost broadband and phone service packages, called social tariffs, are on offer for people on low incomes. They're open to people who claim Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits, with deals from £15 a month.  There are more than 40 offers that you may be able to ask for - there's an online tool to check what support you might qualify for.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**See the offers**](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs) | |   **Extra help if your power or water are cut**   |  | | --- | | text only |   Did you know that power and water companies give priority help to some customers when services are interrupted? But first you need to register for this help.  People who may qualify include pensioners, families with children under five, people with disability, serious illness or mental health difficulty and people who rely on medical equipment or refrigerated medicine.  [**Register for Priority Services with UK Power Networks**](https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services/about-the-priority-services-register)  ***Either*** South East Water ***or***Southern Water will be your water supplier:  [**Register for Priority Services with South East Water**](https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/priority-services/register-for-priority-services)  [**Register for Priority Services with Southern Water**](https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/join-our-priority-services-register)  **Help to stay warm this winter**  [A woman with two small children looks at a tablet computer](https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/)  Find out if you can get a free warm homes check to see if you're getting the financial support available to stay warm at home.  There are also thrifty winter tips to help everyone keep your home as warm as possible. See the Warm East Sussex website to apply for a check or get more advice.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Warm homes checks and more help**](https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/) | |   **Are you missing out on £65 a week?**  [Advert for pension credit](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim)  Up to 1 million pensioners are entitled to Pension Credit but are not claiming it. They are missing out on an average payment of £65 a week for people on a low income and over state pension age. Even pensioners who own their home, or have savings, may still qualify.  Applying for pension credit before 18 December will also allow those accepted to receive a second extra cost of living payment of £324.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Apply for Pension Credit**](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim) | |   **Say 'No' to loan sharks this Christmas**  [A troubled man with a text caption expressing his fears](https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/)  Loan sharks (illegal money lenders who charge sky-high interest) are especially dangerous in the run-up to Christmas when they sign up one in 10 of their victims.  If you, or someone or you know, has borrowed from a loan shark you can get practical help and emotional support from the **Stop Loan Sharks** campaign. You can also safely report a loan shark so that they will be investigated.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Get help against loan sharks**](https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/) | |   **This winter....what if?**  [collection of icons of bad weather](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/10-things-you-should-do-now-to-prepare-for-winter)  What would you do in a power cut? There's no particular reason to expect power outages but storm damage or supply problems can never be ruled out.  It's a good idea to think about some simple preparations you could take now in case the worst happens. For example, preparing a 'grab bag' with some bottled water, a torch, radio, batteries and any important medicines.  There are some more suggestions for being 'Winter Ready' on the Met Office's website.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**10 ways to prepare for winter**](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/10-things-you-should-do-now-to-prepare-for-winter) | |   **All of our latest help and advice on the cost of living and staying warm is collected in one place on our website and is kept updated. There are sections on money, food, heating, mental health, benefits, employment and much more.**  **Please take a look and bookmark the page if it's helpful.**  [**Support with the cost of living in East Sussex**](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/support-with-the-cost-of-living?utm_source=homepagebanner-escc&utm_medium=web&utm_content=help&utm_campaign=costofliving)  East Sussex Together footer image | | |  | |

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