

York pensioners gain £1000's in extra income

Getting the help you're entitled to really can make a difference of £1000s." Make sure your not missing out on

- Pension Credit
- Household Support Fund
- Council Tax Support or Council Tax Discounts

Finding out more about the options available to you really can help. Don't miss out.

Pension Credit gives people extra money to help with their living costs if they're over State Pension age and on a low income. Pension Credit can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges.

Last autumn, Government data showed around 1,600 York households were missing out on Pension Credit. The council wrote to over 300 households they had details for, advising them that they might be eligible for Pension Credit and offering advice and support on how to apply for it.

By the end of the year, a third of these households had applied for their Pension Credit and secured ongoing eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment this winter, gaining them an average of over £6,000 a year in increased benefits.

Collectively they received over £145,000 of backdated payments, with estimates suggesting that over the lifetime of their claims, the support will add up to over £5.7 million.

To claim Pension Credit, you can:

- claim online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit if you already claim State Pension and there aren't any children or young people included in your claim.
- call the Pension Credit claim line and they can fill in the application for you over the phone
 - on **0800 99 1234** (Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).
 - Textphone: 0800 169 0133
 - Next Generation Text relay, if you cannot hear or speak on the phone: 18001 then 0800 99 1234
 - British Sign Language (BSL) via Interpreters Live at www.connect.interpreterslive.co.uk/vrs if you're on a computer, or their App on a mobile phone or tablet.

Household Support Fund can help with your fuel and other bills. Particularly if you are just over the Pension Credit limit. The council wrote to 145 people to let them know they could be eligible

Find out more and how to claim Household Support Fund at www.york.gov.uk/HouseholdSupportFund

There are different types of help to reduce Council Tax payments.

- **Council Tax Support** can give 100% support to pensioners on a low income.
- **Council Tax Discounts** give reductions depending on who lives in the property, including
 - o Second Adult Rebate
 - o Single Occupancy Discount
 - o Severe Mental Impairment exemption
 - o Council tax discount for Disabled people
 - o Council tax exemptions for people in care
 - o Assistance for carers

Each of these have special qualifying criteria. You can find out more and how to apply at www.york.gov.uk/HouseholdCouncilTaxHelp

Advice and support is available in York. If you need help to find out more about Pension Credit, Household Support Fund or Council Tax Support, check if you are eligible and help you claim please contact one of the services below.

Organisation	Contact
Citizens Advice York	www.citizensadviceyork.org.uk 808 278 7895 Drop in: Mondays, 10am-12pm Citizens Advice York, West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA
Age UK York	01904 634061 www.ageuk.org.uk/york/
Older Citizens Advocacy York - OCAY	01904 676200 www.oldercitizensadvocacy.org.uk
CYC Benefits Advisors	01904 552044 www.york.gov.uk/benefitsadvice
York Carers Centre	www.yorkcarerscentre.co.uk 01904 715 490 enquiries@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk
JRHT Money and Benefits Advice service	JRHT Tenants ONLY Call: 0800 5870211 Email: mba@jrht.org.uk
Peasholme Charity	01904 466 866 info@peasholmecharity.org www.peasholmecharity.org.uk

There are also outreach services across the city. Call in to your local community venue to find out about local advice sessions.