



# East Renfrewshire Citizens

## Advice Bureau Weekly Update

06/07/2023

### Scottish Government Food Insecurity Pilot

ERCAB have again been selected to participate in the Scottish Government Food insecurity pilot following the success of last year's scheme. When someone needs to use a food bank, there is usually a need for welfare rights and money advice. ERCAB take a holistic, person centred approach to people's financial health. ERCAB present options of a foodbank referral and / or issue cash grants.

The purpose is to explore a different way of meeting immediate financial need that provides households with greater dignity and choice, alongside money advice to help prevent future hardship and reduce need for emergency support systems, such as food banks. ERCAB are working alongside our partners including ER Foodbank on this 6 month pilot. An ERCAB adviser is now present in the Barrhead Foodbank on a Tuesday (12 to 2pm); Thornliebank Foodbank on a Thursday (10 to 1pm) and Dunterlie Foodshare on a Friday (11 to 1 pm).

### Older Peoples Project

"Our Older People's Project Adviser, Sarah will be providing drop-in sessions across East Renfrewshire. The main aim of this project is to encourage older people within East Renfrewshire to claim benefits that they may be entitled to. The following drop-in sessions are available;

Voluntary Action at the Avenue in Newton Mearns - 1pm-3.30pm (every Wednesday)

Giffnock and Mearns Libraries - 10am - 1pm (every Thursday alternating weekly) \*Giffnock Library on the 13th of July

Drop-in sessions will also soon be available at the Include Me 2 Club, Cowan Park Lodge on Tuesday afternoons. **If you have any questions or would like a benefit check, please do not hesitate to attend any of the above drop-in sessions or contact Sarah on 0141 881 2032.**

### AR26 Charity Information

AR26 Charity's neighbour at Morris Park, Glasgow – Box Fresh ([www.boxfreshglasgow.com](http://www.boxfreshglasgow.com) / @boxfreshglasgow) are dedicated to giving back and have been running an initiative where people can donate school shoes / trainers both worn and new and they will clean these up and donate them back to the community ready for the new school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch and please feel free to share with any appropriate contacts. The team at Box Fresh have been overwhelmed with the public support for this campaign and are on a mission to help young people put their best foot forward when schools return in August.

### Good News Story

Client approached the bureau to enquire about his immigration status and what benefits he would be entitled to. During the course of the client's call, it emerged that he had issues pertaining to housing, universal credit and debt. The client was then booked in for appointments with the immigration, debt, housing and energy advisers to piece together a solution for the client's difficult situation. After a benefit check with the immigration adviser, the client was identified as being eligible for Universal Credit. The client was able to receive support filling out his application and has since began receiving UC which he says has made a huge difference and prevented him from falling into more debt. The client was further supported with on-going debt issues he was having with his energy provider. With a limited income, the client struggled to make regular payments towards his energy and as a result built up debt with the provider. The client was able to attend the bureau to complete a Home Heating Support Fund. The client's application was accepted and he was awarded with £666.25 and had a further £100 energy voucher issued. This not only paid off the client's fuel debt in its entirety, but provided two more months of energy supply. The client was delighted with the result of his energy grant application.

Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

**Email - [ere-bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:ere-bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk)**