

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

November 4, 2020

Residents reminded of support available

Fenland residents are being reminded of the help available to them should they need it ahead of the second national lockdown starting on Thursday, November 5.

People who are in need as a result of the coronavirus pandemic can contact Fenland District Council's COVID-19 Community Hub on 01354 654321, or via email at: covid19@fenland.gov.uk, to access a range of services.

The hub was set up during the first national lockdown in March to help support vulnerable people affected by the pandemic.

Together with local community organisations and volunteers, the hub has answered over 2,000 requests for help and offered flexible support as needs have changed over the past eight months.

Help available includes access to food and assistance for those who are self-isolating, providing essential day-to-day support such as prescription collections. People experiencing loneliness or mental health problems can also be signposted to local support services.

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council, said: "At the beginning of the pandemic the Council joined forces with various voluntary organisations to set up our Community Hub and support all those in need of help. This fantastic support network continues to be there for our residents, and I would urge anyone who is worried to get in touch.

"This latest lockdown will be tough for us all, arguably tougher than the first after months of restrictions and as we head into winter. But we will get through it again and work together to stay safe and protect the most vulnerable in our communities."

A range of other support is also available:

- Test and Trace Support Payment – if you're asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and you're on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, you may be entitled to a payment of £500 from the Council under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment
- Customer services – face-to-face appointments will still be available at the Council's Customer Service Centres and Community Hubs for those who have no other way to access services. To make an appointment, call 01354 654321. Do not visit without an appointment.
- Financial support – if you have been financially affected by COVID-19, you may be entitled to Housing Benefit, a Council Tax Reduction or a Discretionary Housing Payment. Visit: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Housing support – if you need housing advice or have become homeless, contact the Council as soon as possible on 01354 654321 or email: housingadvice@fenland.gov.uk

- Business grants – following the announcement of a second national lockdown, the Government has outlined further financial support for businesses that are forced to close. The Council is awaiting detailed guidance and will share more information as soon as possible at: www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice

For more information, visit the Council's coronavirus advice pages at www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirus or follow the Council's social media channels.

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226