

Money Counts for Christmas...

Christmas is an expensive time of year - to avoid a New Year debt hangover Solihull Council and its partners who are asking people to look at their household income and check they are receiving the right benefits.



If there is ever a time when a bit of extra money would help, it's Christmas. Benefits and tax credits are available to those on a low income, but some people are unaware of what they are entitled to and how to claim it.

Help is available on rent, council tax bills, social care and school meals. Those families with a household income under £62,000 per year may be entitled to Tax Credits, and people over 60 and on a low income could claim Pension Credits.

To see if you or your household is entitled to benefits you are currently not claiming view our [benefit entitlement section](#).

Beyond benefits, The Solihull Partnership is advising people to make sure they budget over the festive and New Year period, to avoid the additional Christmas outgoings resulting in serious debt. By prioritising spending, avoiding extra borrowing and shopping around for the best deals, people can make savings.

Chair of the Solihull Partnership Governing Board and Leader of the Council, Councillor Ken Meeson said: "A lot of people are feeling the pinch over the festive period; we want to make sure everyone knows there is information and support available. By checking entitlements and changing spending habits, people could have a truly merry Christmas without the worries of financial problems."

Solihull Community Housing have provided their top money saving tips to help put more of a jingle into Christmas. Read through [their top Christmas money saving tips](#) and see how much money you could save.

As at any time of year anyone who finds themselves in severe financial problems should ask for help straight away before things get out of control.

View our [useful contacts section](#) to get in touch with organisations that can offer free and impartial advice