

East Northants Community Services (ENCS) – October 2020 update Also serving the district through the East Northants Faith Group (ENFG)

(Registered Charity Number 1154210)



ENCS and Coronavirus (Covid-19) update

Recovery House Update:

In the last three months we have been incredibly lucky to receive funding from the Northants Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, which has funded the addition of two more bed spaces at our Recovery House facility, increasing from 6 to 8! All of the building and decoration work is nearly completed and we will be welcoming more individuals into the house imminently.

Homeless Services:

We have had a hugely successful 6 months with our new outreach worker. In that time, Amy has successfully supported relieved or prevented in 53% of clients and another 37% have successfully engaged with other services.

We are still identifying how we can safely open our night shelter and will update as soon as we can.

If you or someone you know is at risk of homelessness in East Northants, please get in touch with Homes Direct on 0345 600 5050.

Food Banks Opening Times:

Rushden: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30am till 12noon. We will take referrals from agencies (e.g. GP's, social services etc) for those that need deliveries.

Raunds: Thursdays 9:30am till 12:30pm at Raunds Community Centre

Thrapston: Tuesdays 1pm till 3pm at the Baptist Church

All of our food banks are reliant on donations from the public, and the current climate makes those donations, however big or small, incredibly helpful to us. A full list of what we need can be found on our website and updates on our Facebook pages of what we need most, are posted often.

If you have any queries on the work of ENCS, or wish to help in any way, please contact Jo Burns on info@encs.org.uk or 07871 999020

Kids Winter Warmer...

OPEN Half Term w/c 26th October on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00-12:00 at the Raunds Community Centre for uniform coats, hats, gloves, shoes, PE kits, toys, books, gifts... we also have vouchers that can be redeemed at Caroline Dumbleton Treasure Trove

Autism awareness training session

Further to last month's report on Rushden church member David Crisp setting up his own **autism support service**, David will be hosting an **autism awareness training session** via Zoom on **Friday 6th November** from 9.30am for church leaders on "Welcoming and Including Autistic People into the Church Family". The registration link is: <https://lnkd.in/gKcuTf6> - and please contact David to express your interest: 01933 413431, Mob:07572 433801, Davidcrisp431@btinternet.com. David's website is at: www.wired4autism.co.uk

Please contact Andrew Presland at andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com or by phone on 01933 316927 if you would like more information on anything mentioned here.

'Helping our children's work flourish during a pandemic'

Care for the Family is providing free Zoom sessions with Rob Parsons, Andy Frost and the Kitchen Table Project team

Fascinating new research findings showing what makes online children's work effective.

- There are two opportunities to join the free session:
 - Tues 3rd Nov 19:30 – 21:00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/helping-our-childrens-work-flourish-during-a-pandemic-for-church-leaders-tickets-125347861829>

- Thurs 5th Nov 1-2:30pm -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/helping-our-childrens-work-flourish-during-a-pandemic-for-church-leaders-tickets-126196943455>

To add some local interest, some of our local Nene Valley churches and leaders are featured in the content. The sessions are **very much for church leaders and/or anyone leading children/youth/families work in whatever context.**



Hello, My Name is Terry Richards and I run the Energy Team at Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice.

We provide **1 to 1 energy advice** to all but especially those who are fuel poor or vulnerable.

Warm Home Discount

This is an important time of year to make sure all those who have to apply for the Warm Home Discount of £140 off their energy bill. Especially with the Sale of Robin Hood Energy and Ebico to British Gas, many who could not apply, now can and may be able to claim it this year.

Priority Services Register

We are also keen to make sure, as winter approaches, that those vulnerable customer are all signed up to their supplier's Priority Services Register. (PSR).

This is designed to give vulnerable customers access to the services they need. The type of support will depend largely on the individual's circumstances as well as what's offered by each supplier. It could include everything from quarterly meter readings to free gas safety checks, **meter relocations**, and large-format or Braille bills. Individuals on the Priority Services Register can also expect advanced notices of interruptions to their service, and priority during a **power cut**.

We can offer help on many other things such as

- An Energy Check to see if its best to Switch your Energy Supplier
- Making your home Energy efficient
- How to complain to your Energy supplier
- Saving money on your Gas and Electric
- Moving Home – Dealing with your Energy Supply
- Grants and benefits to help pay your Energy bills
- Compare gas and Electricity prices
- ECO Grants
- Helped through how to apply for the Green Homes Grant scheme

Our service at the moment is on the phone. We can mirror computers with you or use zoom or Teams. Or just do the online work for you. We look forward to hearing from you.

We are also offering Frontline training and consumer presentations for any groups via Zoom or Meet etc.

I am also presenting at the following event at 10am on Thursday, 29th October

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vcse-online-network-29th-october-tickets-116097281093>

Please give us a call on 07742 623516 or 01604 235080. Or email me on t.richards@cencab.org.uk