COST OF LIVING CRISIS

ALL WE CAN DO IS EVERYTHING WE CAN

Progress Report

on Cost of Living action framework



Last updated 6th October 2022

onenortherndevon

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

Last updated 6th October 2022

Key progress points:

- **23rd August 2022** — **OND Board agrees Cost of Living Action Framework**
- **14th September 2022** — **Extraordinary One Communities meeting to introduce Action Framework to representatives of the One Communities**
- **23rd September onwards** — **One Communities meet to agree actions**
- **4th October** — **Northern Cost of Living Crisis Team begins meeting fortnightly**

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

Last updated 6th October 2022

1

Identify key areas that people need support

Key areas identified. Further focus areas have been added following feedback from councillors and communities. In particular supporting local businesses and vcse organisations during this time was identified as a key area of need due to many saying they would not survive financially due to increased costs.

2

Identify what is already available to meet that need?

Online Form has been circulated through our networks for partners to inform of the support they are aware of.
One Communities holding community workshops and gathering information on what is available in their own area.

Cost of living pages created on OND website and being populated. CoL Operational Team has gone through the information provided.

3

Identify gaps and consider how local partners could fill those gaps

We will consider what is needed to help people beyond the existing provision. We will work together as OND partners and communities to identify what would help and how we might deliver that together. We will collaborate with other areas in the UK who have created local plans to share learning. We will work with business partners to identify where they may be able to contribute resources.

4

Ensure those who need it can access the support

Making sure support gets to those who need it most is vital. An analysis by the ONS concluded adults most affected by rising costs were those:

- on lowest incomes
- renting their homes
- with no formal qualifications
- parents of dependent children
- disabled adults
- divorced or separated

We will also identify local risk groups and plan how we will reach them.

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

OND Cost of Living Response Team

Last updated 6th October 2022

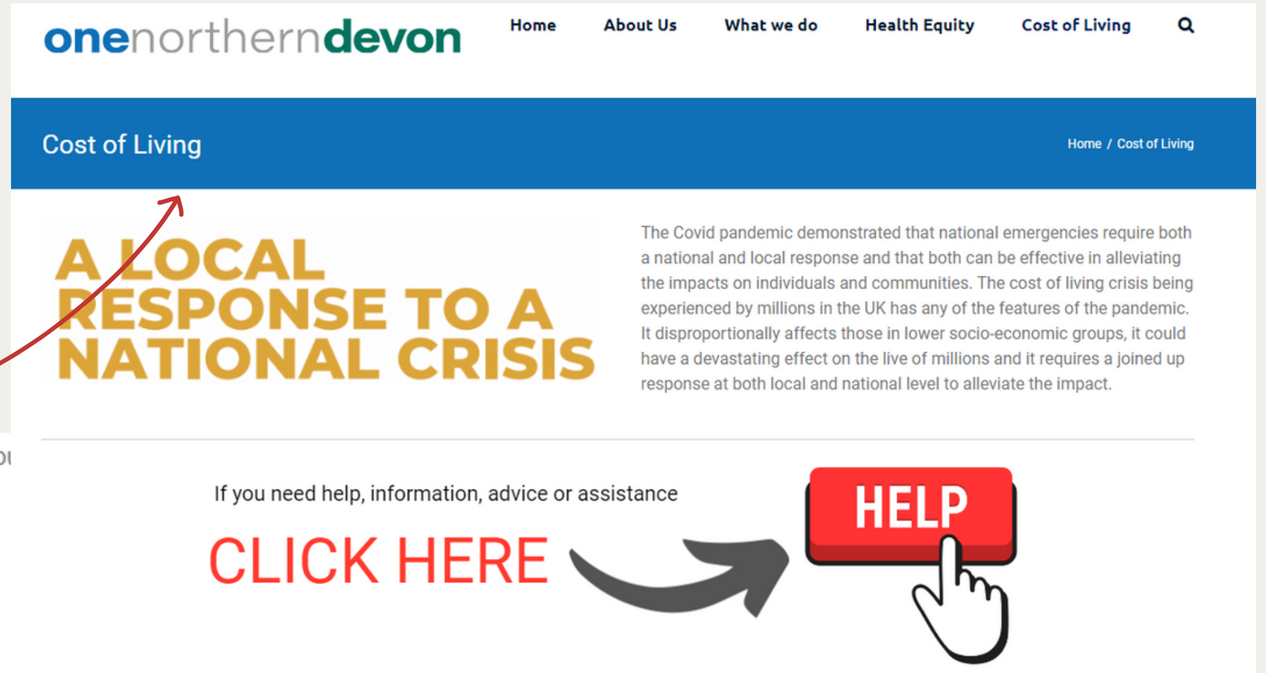
Simone Thompson - TTVS Chief Executive
Michelle Harding - One Community Developer - Torrington 100
Staci Dorey - Torridge District Council - Senior Leadership Team member
Geoff Cusick - One Community Chair - Holsworthy & Surrounding Areas Forum
Bev Triggs - Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer
Louise Flagg - NDVS and One Barnstaple Chair
Colin Bray - Devon Libraries Unlimited - Service Development Manager
Sarah Higgins - North Devon Council
James Lander - One Communities Support Manager
Will Aspinall - NHS Devon
Charlotte Pavitt - Devon Public Health
Andrea Beacham - One Northern Devon Partnership Manager

First meeting on 4th October 2022 - confirmed plan and list of current provision available at national, regional and district level

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

Website

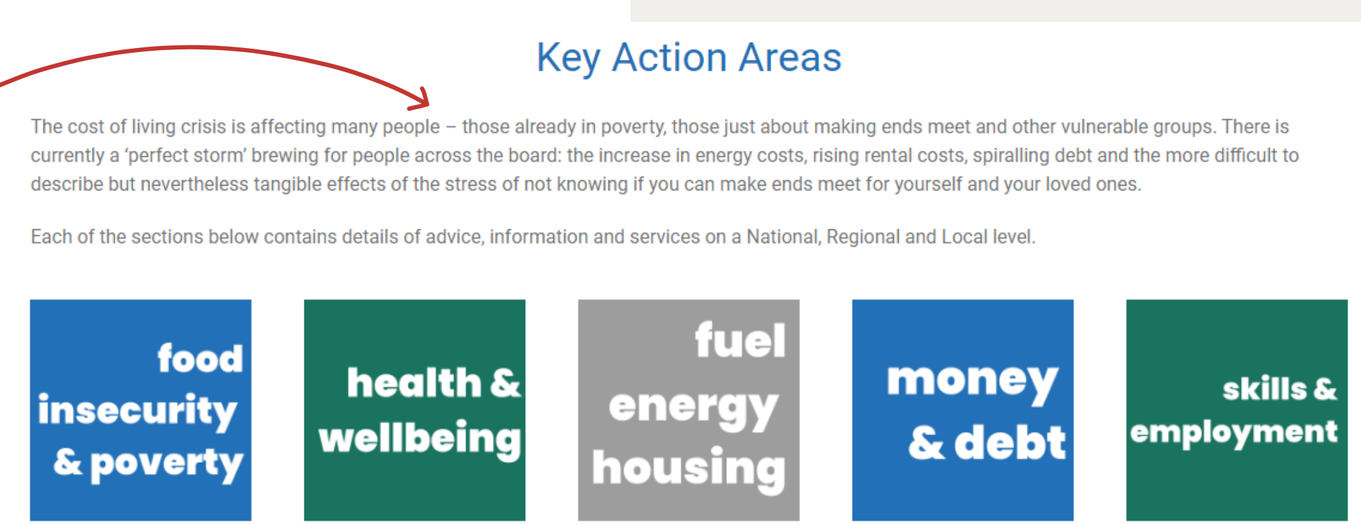
There is now a cost of living tab on the homepage of the OND website and the pages can be accessed here: https://onenortherndevon.co.uk/cost-of-living/



This page identifies what is currently available on a National, Regional and Local Level to assist people in hou
food for a healthy diet.

- Ilfracombe (One Ilfracombe)
- Barnstaple (One Barnstaple)
- Torrington (Torrington 100)
- Bideford (One Atlantic)
- Holsworthy (Holsworthy & District Community Forum)
- South Molton (One South Molton)
- North Devon
- Torridge
- Devon
- National

Following feedback that it was more helpful to have every level of support available on each page, the web pages have been redesigned in this way



Progress on Cost of Living action framework

Data

Last updated 6th October 2022

Latest position:

We have started to compile data that is currently available as per the following three slides.
However, following discussions with colleagues at DCC and NHS Devon, we are holding off forming our own data group as a Devon-wide group is being formed and we are waiting to see if this group can provide the information we need rather than duplicating.

What data do we have?



Devon County Council Annual Public Health Report

Last updated 04.07.2022

3.2 The Cost-of-living Crisis
Devon Strategic Plan Priority: Tackle poverty and inequality

At the time of writing the report annual inflation is just over 9%, a 40 year high, with the Bank of England predicting inflation will peak above 11% before falling but fully expect price levels will remain high. Inflation is being driven by sharp increases in global energy and fuel prices, higher price of goods and domestic wage pressures. When inflation is driven by rising costs, as opposed to demand pressures, this form of inflation has a direct impact on living standards.

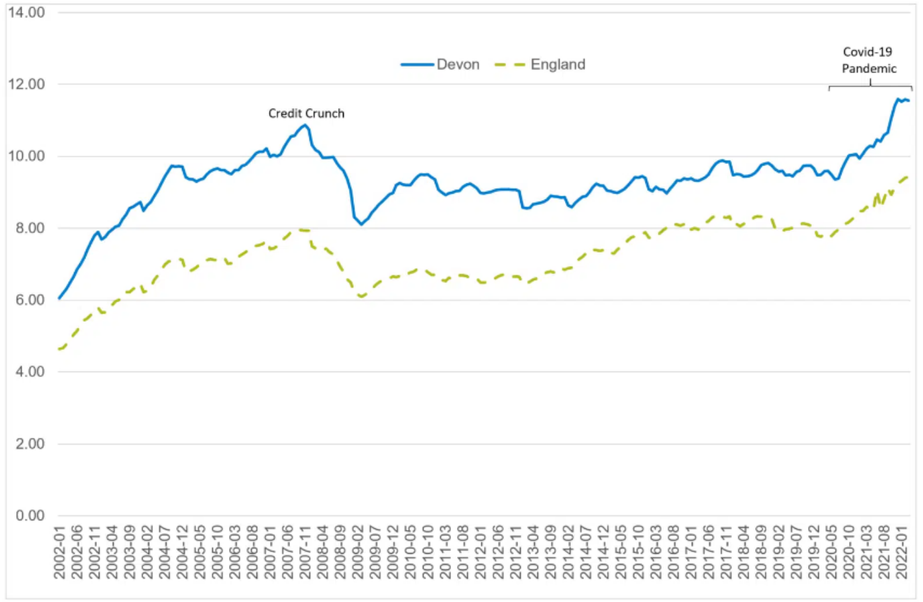
The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) projects that real disposable income will fall by 2.2% this year which would be the largest decline on record. This fall impacts those worst off most with low-income households and people living in poverty spending a larger share of their income on energy and food.

Increases in inflation not only has a direct impact on the health of the poorest households, but also has an impact on people's mental health. There is a strong correlation between deprivation and poor mental health. People with pre-existing conditions are likely to suffer most with an increased risk of stress and anxiety as they struggle with rising costs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to the cost-of-living crisis in Devon. Since March 2020 demand for accommodation and the cost of housing have increased significantly. The economic and financial pressures seen through the pandemic, coupled with rising inflation and increasing energy, food and fuel costs mean that Devon citizens have been particularly affected.

Whilst the cost of living is increasing across the UK, Devon is particularly vulnerable due to lower-than-average salaries, and above average housing and other costs. The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to increased housing costs and reduced financial security due to unemployment and the impact on local industries, including tourism and services. The demand for housing in Devon contributed to rising house prices, with the current average house price approaching 12 times higher than average annual full-time salaries in the County compared to just over nine times higher nationally, which rose sharply during the pandemic and are currently the highest on record.

Figure 3.2.1: Average House Price to Full-Time Salary Ratio, Devon vs England, 2002 to 2022



Source: Land Registry UK House Price Index (data.gov.uk) and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Nomis – Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)

Average full-time salaries in Devon at £28,010 per annum are significantly lower than in England as a whole at £31,490 per annum, mean that Devon households are particularly vulnerable to increases in the cost of living.

See also **Cost of living rises and how they impact health inequalities**
-Charlotte Pavitt, Consultant in Public Health - June 2022



Food insecurity & poverty

What gaps have been identified?

Food insecurity: research commissioned by the County Council in 2021 to establish the level of food insecurity in Devon found that approximately one in six (17%) of Devon households were experiencing food insecurity with one in ten households experiencing substantial disruptions to their eating patterns, with household members eating less and going hungry. Food prices grew by 6.7% in the year to April 2022 which some foods such as pasta increasing by 50%. Households living in poverty are least able to afford nutritious food and with rising prices this is likely to result in an unhealthy diet contributing further to poorer health outcomes. Responses to these households varies considerably across Devon's geography and those most at risk of food insecurity can be the least likely to access available support. The Council's delivery of Government funding such as the Household Support Fund has placed significant additional funding to local organisations and families.

Child Poverty: The proportion of children living in low-income families also reflects the impact of low wages, particularly in rural and coastal areas of the County. This is highlighted in the table below, which shows that the 10 wards with the highest proportions for this measure are in North Devon, Torridge and West Devon, rather than larger urban centres as seen historically.

Table 3.2.1: Percentage of children in low-income families, top 10 wards in Devon, 2021

Ward	District	Children in Low Income Families (%)
Lynton & Lynmouth	North Devon	27.2%
Chittlehampton	North Devon	22.5%
Monkleigh & Putford	Torridge	22.5%
Hartland	Torridge	19.4%
Mortehoe	North Devon	18.6%
Chulmleigh	North Devon	18.4%
Drewsteignton	West Devon	17.8%
Milton & Tamarside	Torridge	17.5%
Hatherleigh	West Devon	17.1%
Combe Martin	North Devon	17.0%

Source: Department of Work and Pensions Children in low income families: local area statistics – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DCC Public Health Report

What is currently available?

Food insecurity and poverty

In April 2021, One Northern Devon was commissioned by DCC Public Health to increase understanding of the food provision within the community and the access to emergency food.

The One Communities carried out this research in their own areas which was collated into the One Northern Devon Food Insight Report

Results of community food provision mapping April 2021

Area	Organisation	Type of support available
Holsworthy	Holsworthy Mutual Aid	The Holsworthy Mutual Aid have received grants from Devon Communities Foundation to families who are entitled to free school meals or just above that income level. This was used to distribute 4 rounds of between 170 and 180 hampers. They have also given out Bake Off packs to anyone in the community who wishes to have a go at baking from scratch.
	Holsworthy Food Bank	There is a food bank which is now managed by Northern Devon Foodbank, it was set up and run by Christians Together. It is open on a Wednesday afternoon for 2 hours and managed by a team of 9 rotating volunteers. An average of 5 people a week use the food bank.
Braunton	South Street Church Food bank	Community run food bank that was set up in response to Covid-19 and the effects of lock down. No eligibility requirements as we believe this often creates unnecessary barriers for people and want to remove as much stigma around asking for help with food, as possible. Serving 30 individuals and families on a regular weekly basis, with new referrals coming in each week.
Bideford and surrounding area (One Atlantic area)	East the Water Community Pantry	Food and hygiene items to families that are struggling financially
	Asda Superstore	Asda cafes are offering a free cold or hot kids meal when you spend £1 in their café. (Only one per person per day). This is not just for those on free school meals. Currently planned to finish at the end of the Easter holidays.
	Poolside Kiosk Bideford	Free soup for adults, free breakfast cereal/porridge for children (before or after school) that are in need, based in Victoria park
	Rock Church	Food parcels - working arrangement with the food bank
	Westward Ho! Baptist Church	Community Lunch Club - a box of food to enable packed lunches for children to be made up at home for 7 days – the box comprises bread, sandwich filling, crisps, biscuit and fruit. We usually have some extra elements which are donated by our local Co-op . Aimed at Families with Children that are feeling the financial pinch but anyone is welcome that is in need. Co-op short dated food between 10am and 11am on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning on a turn-up, first come, first served basis. Also a referral service for the food bank in Bideford. Need a few details in order to issue a voucher.
	The Storehouse	Food for those in need whether that be homeless, in debt, or other reasons. We encourage people to bring their own shopping bags. We also have free saucepans, crockery, tents, sleeping bags and bedding to those in need.
	Space - Bideford Youth Centre	Local food and wellbeing hampers for vulnerable families with teenagers. Not a continual operation.
	Lime Grove Punk Pantry	Donated tins, dry foods, long life milk, and toiletries. May vary depending on donations. Food that doesn't need to be in a fridge. Take what you need. Leave what you can.
	Clovelly Road community pantry	Various food available. Donations also very welcome..
	St Mary's Church Bideford	Free main meal and sometimes pudding

Area	Organisation	Type of support available
Barnstaple	Barnstaple Food Bank	Rose Lane, Barnstaple
	Community Pantry	St Mary's Road, Barnstaple
	The Freedom Centre	Supporting rough sleepers with food parcels, other provisions and support
Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe Food Bank	Food bank based at the Salvation Army in Ilfracombe
	Belle's Place	Belles Place offer a hot cooked meal 4 days a week. During COVID they have offered this as a takeaway service Belles Place is operating to a certain degree as a community larder. Provides a kitchen, lounge area and toilet.
	Waste Not Cafe	Community Café- Run & coordinated by Incredible Edible Ilfracombe, Cafe Waste-Not intervenes surplus food waste and turns it into delicious meals for donations only.
	Coastal Cooking	Cookery courses for all tastes, family sessions available
Torrington	Torrington Fair Trade Group	Community Lunch Club - a box of food to enable packed lunches for children to be made up at home for 7 days – the box comprises bread, sandwich filling, crisps, biscuit and fruit. We usually have some extra elements which are donated by our local Co-op . Aimed at Families with Children that are feeling the financial pinch but anyone is welcome that is in need. Co-op short dated food between 10am and 11am on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning on a turn-up, first come, first served basis. Also a referral service for the food bank in Bideford. Need a few details in order to issue a voucher.
	Foodbank	Food for those in need whether that be homeless, in debt, or other reasons. We encourage people to bring their own shopping bags. We also have free saucepans, crockery, tents, sleeping bags and bedding to those in need.
	TooGoodToGo	Local food and wellbeing hampers for vulnerable families with teenagers. Not a continual operation.
	1646 Gardens	Donated tins, dry foods, long life milk, and toiletries. May vary depending on donations. Food that doesn't need to be in a fridge. Take what you need. Leave what you can.
	Village Garden Old Nursery	Various food available. Donations also very welcome..
	Bluecoat School	Free main meal and sometimes pudding
	Town Council	

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

One Communities

Last updated 6th October 2022

As was the case during the Covid lockdowns the One Communities have galvanised and are ready to do what they can to support their residents. They have each taken the One Northern Devon framework for action and have begun working on it following an extraordinary meeting of the One Communities on 14th September.

One Atlantic

13th Sept - Extraordinary OA meeting
28th Sept - COL Workshop: Set in a Youth club with a friendly dog, comfy sofa's, tea and cookies 25-30 people met and worked in breakout groups for 15 min rounds with rotations so people could move between stations. People were really keen to discuss and ideas seemed to flow. CD will share notes and make connections to turn discussions into actions and measure success (see above for initial activity)
5th Oct - CD and TTVS will present to the Rotary Club

One Ilfracombe

7th Sept - Initial COL discussions at previous 'Living Well' Forum
21st Sept - One Ilfracombe met with Ilfracombe Town Council Clerk and Councillors
29th Sept - Ilfracombe Town Council and One Ilfracombe staff hosted a 'Stakeholder workshop' to discuss ideas and share knowledge.
Topic to be included on each One Ilfracombe LIving Well meetings

Torrington 100

5th Sept - OC Forum briefly discussed a COL response
21st Sept - Met with Town Council to discuss partnering
8th Oct - Setting up a 'Cost-of-living' Community Fayre (see above)

One Barnstaple

7th Sept - OC Forum briefly discussed a COL response
20th Sept - Online Extraordinary OC meeting to gather ideas / information
19th Oct - COL Workshop @Barnstaple Library brining together local organisations to share ideas and knowledge (in person and online)

Holsworthy & District Community Forum

15th Sept 2022 - Held an extraordinary COL response meeting with members of HD&CF. Local Schools Trust agreed to share COL form with schools for distribution to gather local response ideas. Community Larder / Support hub to be developed.
27th September - Attended the West Devon Voluntary Services Community Wellbeing Event and spoke with attending organisations to gather their thoughts on a COL response
5th October - COL response added to the Town Council agenda to work in partnership with HD&CF to run a 'town workshop'

One South Molton

21st Sept - OC meeting to discuss COL approach
10th Oct @Assembly Rooms 'community workshop' – general public, cllrs, SMTC all invited. Press release sent and posters distributed.
Next steps - Once workshop complete, identify who is offering what and where during Winter, make this available to public. Also identify any gaps in provision and seek community support in filling these gaps

Live Well in Braunton

22nd September - Braunton & Communities Forum held a COL meeting with members of the Parish Council and local organisations in attendance.
29th Sept onwards - Every Thursday a 'COL working group' will meet online to turn ideas into action.

Parishes

5th Oct - presented the OND COL framework to local town and parish councils at a Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) event in Exeter. The OND cost-of-living webpage has been shared with DALC, along with an e-form for local councils to share their knowledge and ideas with OND, this way the learning and sharing will be a two-way process

Progress on Cost of Living action framework

Example of community meeting – One Ilfracombe

The meeting was well attended with over 30 local groups represented in person. The meeting looked at the structure that we would be following in order to collate information about groups, organisations, schemes, initiatives etc. on a local level that could support those who needed it in our community through the toughest time of year.
We are working alongside One Northern Devon and North Devon Council who are pulling together some of the more regional and national campaigns to support people.
An end goal is to have an online database where people can click on their locality and discover what is out there to help them in their towns, districts and counties.
One big discussion point was around access to this information as we know that not everyone will be able to access this information online, so we are looking at multiple ways of spreading this information.

One of the main agenda items was looking at the fantastic work that Cllr Terry Elliot (a member of this team) has pulled together around having regular "Warm Spaces" available in Ilfracombe every day of the week. These are places that can provide warmth, socialising opportunities, hot food/drink and hopefully some additional activities. Everyone agreed that these need to be 'marketed' more as a friendly social opportunity rather than a place to go if you can't afford food or utilities. We don't want people to feel stigmatised for need to use these spaces.
We made some really good progress with collating some of the brilliant stuff already on offer in Ilfracombe and we also looked at any gaps. Gaps are being recognised in two ways – 1. General gaps in services for people, 2. Gaps that organisations/businesses may have in expanding or delivering their project. We heard some examples of these such as the Food Bank needing knitted blankets, and Forgotten Foods who were keen to expand but need access to additional kitchen space.

We also were hearing as to help and support that people could offer, such as fundraising, volunteering time and practical support.
This was the first main meeting, and as we start to pull some of the new projects together and continue to fact find we will be sharing information out on a Cost of Living email group.

- Charmain Lovett, Community Developer, Ilfracombe, notes from 5th October community Cost of Living meeting