



## News from the Team:

The Cost of Living Crisis Support Team at One Voice Wales has been hard at work planning events and developing resources to support your councils. In this autumn update, we're excited to share details about our upcoming online webinars and discussion groups. We also spotlight Blaenavon Town Council's Befriending Film Club initiative, along with other general updates and resources available for your councils to use.

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## Upcoming Online Events:



### WEBINAR:

#### Older Persons Engagement & Services

**September 27th: 10.30am - 12.30pm**

A representative from the Older People's Commissioner will discuss their work & how councils can support their older residents this autumn/winter. Additionally, several councils will share their strategies for engaging & supporting their communities with elder-focused activities.

[Zoom Link for Webinar](#)

[Register \(if you prefer\)](#)



**ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP:  
Funding, Grants and Precept Setting  
October 18th: 1.30pm-3.00pm**

Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales and Paul Egan, Deputy Chief Executive, will be joining us to discuss how Councils can fund their Cost of Living Crisis initiatives; using grants or via the precept. We will also explore additional funding sources and hear from councils that have creatively funded their cost of living initiatives through partnerships with other local organisations.

[Book Your Place](#)

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## Council Spotlight: Blaenavon Town Council

Join us at the Blaenavon Befriending Film Club, held monthly at the Workmen’s Hall Cinema! Since its launch in 2022, this fantastic initiative offers free films and refreshments, promoting social connections and tackling loneliness, especially among older residents. With 20+ sessions and 50+ attendees per screening, the club has engaged 1,100 residents, creating a friendly space to connect, enjoy films, and support each other. Discover how this community project addresses social isolation and the cost of living crisis and the profound impact it has on people's lives.



[See the written Case Study on our website](#)



## The Cost of Living Crisis Forum

A collaborative space for Community & Town Councils to share best practice, ask questions, and get help and advice on issues affecting your communities around the Cost-of-Living crisis.

[Join Us](#)

## Watch Our Previous Webinars:



### Youth Engagement & Services

June 2024

[Watch The Recording](#)



### A Guide To Community Transport

July 2024

[Watch The Recording](#)

## Talk to your communities about.....

### Pension Credit

Pension Credit provides extra money to help with living costs if people are over State Pension age and on a low income.



## We are working closely with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales who provided this advice for councils.

"Having town and community councils mention Pension Credit in newsletters, social media or importantly, in conversations with local people would go a long way to spreading the word to older people who might not know that they could be eligible to apply for Pension Credit. Face to face contacts are often the most successful way of getting people to think about claiming. Organisations like Age Cymru and some branches of Age Connects can also sometimes help people to complete the forms."

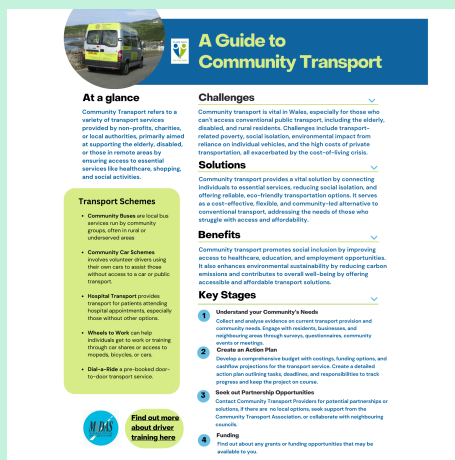
[Learn More](#)



## Winter Events

Don't forget to look out for news of our future **Councils Connect** sessions and **Webinars** over the next coming months. Topics we will be exploring will include

- **Fuel, Heating and Warm Hubs,**
- **Benefits and Budgeting,**
- **Food and Christmas**



**A Guide to Community Transport**

**At a glance**  
Community Transport refers to a variety of transport services provided by non-profit, charities, or local authorities, primarily aimed at supporting the elderly, disabled, or those in remote areas by ensuring access to essential services like healthcare, shopping, and social activities.

**Transport Schemes**

- **Community Buses** are local bus services run by community groups, often in rural or underserved areas.
- **Community Car Schemes** involve volunteer drivers using their own cars to assist those without access to a car or public transport.
- **Hospital Transport** provides transport for patients attending hospital appointments, especially those without other options.
- **Wheels to Work** can help individuals get to work or training through car share or access to taxis, bicycles, or cars.
- **Diag-a-Ride** is a one-to-one door-to-door transport service.

**Find out more about driver training here**

**Challenges**  
Community transport is vital in Wales, especially for those who can't access conventional public transport, including the elderly, disabled, and rural residents. Challenges include transport-related poverty, social isolation, environmental impacts from reliance on individual vehicles, and the high costs of private transportation, all exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

**Solutions**  
Community transport provides a vital solution by connecting individuals to essential services, reducing social isolation, and offering reliable, eco-friendly transportation options. It serves as a cost-effective, flexible, and community-led alternative to conventional transport, addressing the needs of those who struggle with access and affordability.

**Benefits**  
Community transport promotes social inclusion by improving access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. It also enhances environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions and contributes to overall well-being by offering accessible and affordable transport solutions.

**Key Stages**

- 1. Understand your Community's Needs**  
Collect and analyse evidence on current transport provision and community needs. Engage with residents, businesses, and neighbouring areas through surveys, questionnaires, community events or meetings.
- 2. Create an Action Plan**  
Develop a comprehensive budget with costs, funding options, and suitable organisations for the transport service. Create detailed action plan outlining tasks, deadlines, and responsibilities to track progress and keep the project on course.
- 3. Seek and Partnership Opportunities**  
Contact Community Transport Providers for essential partnerships or solutions. If there are no local options, seek support from the Community Transport Association or collaborate with neighbouring councils.
- 4. Funding**  
Find out about any grants or funding opportunities that may be available to you.

## Community Transport Toolkit

A comprehensive step-by-step guide to equip your councils with essential information, guidance and links to assist you in beginning your journey into the world of community transport.

[Full Document Link](#)

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