

Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network (THCAN) is a partnership of local advice centres that work together to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have access to free, high-quality advice and representation in social welfare law (welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment, immigration, etc) www.thcan.org.uk website has information on advice providers services, factsheets, contact details and a referrals portal.

sarah.sauvat@island-advice.org.uk register to use the portal
jo.ellis@island-advice.org.uk to send info for the mailout

1. Welfare Rights Advisors Forum
2. Training Information
3. Benefit Updates
4. New Projects, Services and Resources Information
5. Vacancies:
6. Advice Services Contacts (specialist advisors)

1. Welfare Rights Advisors Forum

Last meeting Thursday 25th July 2-3pm (zoom) – if you have not previously attended one of these meetings and wish to come, please email me to be added to my list (minutes are available on the THCAN website). The next meeting will be in October and topic housing costs, I will be inviting someone from DWP housing costs section and someone from Housing Benefits –no date confirmed

2. Free Training

- ✓ **Disability Services Advocacy Team upskilling sessions.**

Details attached - If you require any further assistance or information, please contact: disabilityservices.advocacyteam@dwp.gov.uk.

3. Benefit Updates (Information from articles produced by Citizens Advice / CPAG /LASA / Benefits and Work updates summary)

- ✓ **Winter Fuel Payments**

A tax-free payment made to all pensioners to help with winter energy bills – these are to be restricted to those on benefits and Pension Credit. Util now, Winter Fuel Payments worth up to £300 have been made available to EVERYONE above State Pension age in the UK– but this will no longer be the case from this winter.

Eligibility - You can get a Winter Fuel Payment for Winter 2024 to 2025 if you were born before 23 September 1958. You must also live in England or Wales and get one of the following:

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support

✓ **Information / factsheets**

- [Working hours: benefits rules - How are benefits affected by hours worked? | Turn2us](#)

The benefits your client is entitled to can be affected by the number of hours they work per week. Means-tested benefits such as income support, jobseeker's allowance, working tax credit, and employment and support allowance are influenced by the amount of paid work a person does weekly

- [Back to School support | Turn2us](#)

As the new school year approaches, we understand that low-income parents and families may need additional assistance. They may need help funding school supplies including uniforms, other related expenses and school meal support. To find what support is available, read our Back to School support page.

4. New Projects /services, information, and resources in Tower Hamlets

- ✓ **Better Housing Better Health Service** is still open to referrals in your area (information attached). We continue to support with the following:
 - ✓ Emergency Fuel vouchers for prepayment meter users (3x £49 per household)
 - ✓ £2,000 Insulation Grants (for low-income homeowners)
 - ✓ Small Measure Grants (for low-income households)
 - ✓ Priority Service Register Sign Ups
 - ✓ General Energy Advice

Make a Referral - Better Housing Better Health (bhbh.org.uk).

We run a monthly training session for frontline staff which discusses fuel poverty and how our services can support households struggling with it. Our next session is on **05/09/24 from 11:00-12:00** and you can sign up here: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams Ellis Holmes Partnership Manager E: Ellis.Holmes@nef.org.uk](#)

- ✓ **Attached booklet of FREE activities, Island House.**

Useful information for yourselves, to share with clients, colleagues friends and families. Just turn up and register with the tutor at the session of your choice.

Please feel free to share /display poster or share online. Cathy Weir Projects
Manager Island House Community Centre Roserton Street, E14 3PG Tel: 020
7531 0312 /0310 cathy.weir@island-house.org www.island-house.org

✓ **Island House Benefit Checks / Drop-in session for pensioners.**

Support for pensioners with benefit checks and Pension Credit applications.
Please feel free to signpost any of clients of pension age to check: Pension Credit
and attendance allowance entitlement. Cathy Weir cathy.weir@island-house.org
email with the clients name, telephone number and email. They will get a call
back/telephone advice, and/or appointment Island House, Roserton Street, E14
3PG

✓ **Her Wealth, Her Way - A Pathway to Financial Independence for Women**

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 2pm (Free Lunch Included)
at the historic Whitechapel Town Hall - Grocers Wing in the heart of the London
Borough of Tower Hamlets. This empowering event, supported by LBTH,
account3 and Money A&E, is designed to help local women achieve the financial
independence Free tickets are available, but space is limited.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NBeLjvBpHUyymy_VIXE01Gfb5cBm-fBOKA3rAu_6RKpUQkNTWDNLUVpMRDU5R1VMSjZUVTQ1NUpOUS4u
Cherifa Atoussi account3 1-3 Birkbeck Street E2
6JY cherifa.atoussi@account3.org.uk www.account3.org.uk 0207 739 7720 (Office
Phone) 0203 987 5921 (Direct Line)

✓ **Mary ward legal advice clinics information attached**

Employment, housing, benefits, education, DV/family, form filling, personal injury,
SEN and schools exclusion – free legal advice

5. **Vacancies**

Island Advice Centre Vacancy

✓ **LOCUM Welfare Right Caseworker**

Immediate start, Job Description and Person Specification attached
Minimum 3 months, Salary: So1 Hours: 35 hrs per week

Are you passionate about helping others and making an impact in your community?
Join our friendly and supportive team at Island Advice Centre

Email Sarah Sauvat sarah.sauvat@island-advice.org.uk for full details

6. **Advice Services**

Tower Hamlets Advice benefit advice services details [Advice Centres - THCAN](#)

Specialist advice providers All the advice providers listed on www.thcan.org.uk provide benefit advice and help with form filling.

Complex/appeal/specialist advice is available at the below organisations

Legal Advice Centre we have spare capacity concerning PIP appeals and Family Law matters. In terms of PIP appeals, we are happy to take on cases from MR stage. In terms of Family Law, we will take any matter, including non-molestation orders and Section 8 child arrangement issues. We will take such cases regardless of the clients income. For PIP, please use the following email Benefits@legaladvicecentre.London For Family Law, please use the following email Familylaw@legaladvicecentre.London

Organisation	E-mail	Tel Advice
Citizens Advice Bureau	advice@eastendcab.org.uk	0203 855 4472
Island Advice Centre	admin@island-advice.org.uk	0207 987 9379 Tues & Wed 10am to 12
Legal Advice Centre	admin@legaladvicecentre.london	0203 606 0372
Tower Hamlets Law Centre	info@thlc.co.uk	0207 538 4909 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri