

# **Wapping Bangladesh Association**

**A Brief Presentation on the Cost-of-Living Crisis Faced by  
WBA's User Groups**

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## **Cost-of-Living Crisis faced by Our User Groups**

- ▶ **In the past 12-months WBA's information and advice service has seen an increase of 40% overall in the number of local residents seeking help with the cost-of-living crisis**

# Cost-of-Living Issues Faced by WBA's User Groups

- ❑ Increased Shopping and Food bills
- ❑ High energy costs particularly with Heating and Lighting Costs
- ❑ Rise in Fuel Costs
- ❑ Vulnerable to loss of essential services e.g. disconnection of gas / electricity.
- ❑ Rising personal debt levels
- ❑ Loss of employment particularly in the Hospitality Sector.
- ❑ Huge drop in income reported by people who are self-employed e.g Uber Drivers (High Fuel Costs, Insurance etc)

## **Our Users Come to WBA Seeking the Following Help & Support**

- ❑ WBA Advisers to negotiate bill payment plans with utility companies.**
- ❑ Advice on additional benefits that they can apply.**
- ❑ Advice on financial planning.**
- ❑ Advice and information to get back into work.**
- ❑ Access to grants or any other financial help available.**
- ❑ Access / Referrals to Food Banks or Food Programme.**
- ❑ Joining WBA's Lunch Programme.**

## **Impact of the Costs-of-Living Crisis on our User Groups**

**Our user groups have been impacted emotionally, social & economically driving people into poverty, poor physical & mental health, isolation & loneliness.**

## **Cost-of-Living Support Provided by WBA**

- Freshly Cooked Hot Meals 3-Days a Week**
- Warm & Safe Daytime Meeting Space for Vulnerable Older People**
- Food Parcels and Food Vouchers**
- Employment Training Programme**
- Financial Planning and Budget Training**
- Benefits Advice Surgery**