

# Cost of Living Working Group Report

## Key information

Publication type: General

Publication date: Monday 18 March 2024

## Contents

[x](#)

**x**

The **London Assembly Cost of Living Working Group** has **today** published its findings following a year-long investigation into the impact of the cost of living in London.

As part of the investigation, the **Working Group** carried out a number of site visits, which informed the **12 recommendations** to the Mayor and Government to tackle the cost of living crisis. These activities included:

- Visiting Highams Park Food Hub in north London to speak with volunteers and service users about the services provided by the food hub, and how the cost of living has impacted volunteers and service users.
- Visiting Debt Free Advice in east London, to hear how the number of people seeking help has increased in recent years, and how the staff are supporting Londoners with their debts.
- Visiting Sacred Heart RC Primary School south London to speak with teachers and pupils about the Universal Free School Meals programme, and how that has impacted children and parents.

The **Working Group** also held a ‘Cost of Living Conference’ at City Hall, bringing together over 80 individuals to discuss the cost of living in London, including organisations and those with lived experience.

The conference consisted of presentations and panels followed by discussions around tables, facilitated by an Assembly Member. Partner organisations included Centre for London, Thrive LDN, Citizens Advice and the Policy Institute, Kings College London.

The cost of living continues to be a key issue in London with a recent poll from the GLA finding that almost half (46%) of Londoners reported falling behind or struggling to pay bills the last six months.

Key recommendations include:

- The Government should lift the two-child benefit cap to support families in the longer term. At a London level, the cost of living should continue to be a focus of the London Partnership board.
- The Mayor should take steps to ensure that Londoners have the same access to mental health support across different boroughs, and should provide information for frontline organisations about support and funding in each borough.
- The Government should end section 21 evictions before the next election.
- The Mayor should publish the GLA’s evaluation of the Universal Free School Meals programme as soon as it is able, including analysis of the impact of the policy on pupil premium.

[Back to table of contents](#)