

Families with disabled children struggling to afford food and heating.

Contact a Family surveyed almost 800 parent carers in the UK about their financial situation in the current economic crisis. The survey found that families with disabled children are struggling with soaring cost of living and some families are going without basic food and heating.

Key findings include:

- One in six disabled children lives in a household struggling to afford food and heating
- Almost half of families have borrowed money from friends and family, with one in five using the cash to pay their heating bills
- One in 14 children with a disability or medical condition is living under threat of losing their home.

The government needs to act now to ensure disability benefits meet the true cost of raising a disabled child and New and updated guides for families with disabled children.

Contact a Family has updated its guide, 'Dealing with debt - England and Wales' and has brought out a new guide, 'The NHS and caring for a disabled child.'

Ring the helpline on Tel: 0808 808 3555 for a free copy. ensure these families don't face homelessness."

For families concerned about their finances telephone Contact a Family's freephone helpline 0808 808 3555.

To read the full report visit Web:

http://www.cafamily.org.uk/pdfs/counting_the_costs_survey.pdf New benefits podcast from

Contact a Family.

Podcast

Contact a Family has produced a new podcast on the subject of benefits, tax credits and other financial assistance.

The podcast gives an overview of all the main benefits and tax credits available. It's part of a new series, which includes a podcast looking at claiming Disability Living Allowance for a child, also available to download and listen to.

Listen to the podcast, Web: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/audio/benefitsgeneraloverview.mp3>

Contact a Family campaign to Ease Winter Worries

Contact a Family have teamed up with the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' campaign to call on the government to give parents of disabled children a winter fuel allowance.

A recent online survey revealed that two thirds of families struggle to pay their fuel bills.

Many conditions like OB deteriorate in the winter forcing parents to constantly have their heating on. Contact a Family and EDCM fear that sharp increases in fuel prices will make the situation impossible for some families.

If you have difficulties paying your fuel bills and might be willing to talk to the media about it to help explain why families with disabled children need a winter fuel payment you can contact Elaine Bennett on 0207 608 8741 or elaine.bennett@cafamily.org.uk for an informal discussion.