

Newsletter Association

Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates!

Supporting our Community



Featuring in this edition...



Congratulations Students!



Draw Winner



Neighbour Award

A message from our Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and found time to relax and enjoy the sunshine.

First, I'd like to extend heartfelt congratulations to everyone who graduated from the University of the West of Scotland this year. It was a joy to see the celebrations at Paisley Abbey, and we're incredibly proud of your achievements. We'll continue to support students in our community and celebrate their successes.

This September, we'll be inviting tenants to take part in our Tenant Satisfaction Survey, which we run every three years. Your feedback is vital as it helps us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. Thank you in advance for taking part. We'll share the results with you once the survey is complete.

I'm also pleased to highlight the work of our Welfare Benefit and Energy Advice Service. This service is here to support tenants with financial guidance, and we're publishing our performance results for 2024/25 to show the impact it's had. We're proud of the We're excited to announce that our Property Factoring Service will now be featured in this Newsletter. We want owner-occupiers to stay informed about planned works in their area and to have access to the same advice and support services as



Fiona McTaggart
Chief Executive Officer

our tenants. It's all part of building a stronger, more connected community.

Congratulations to the winners of our Good Neighbour Award featured on page 26. It's inspiring to see neighbours looking out for one another and keeping the spirit of community alive. Well done to both of you!

Lastly look out for our Annual Report in October 2025, where you will find the Association's Performance and Benchmarking information.



Contents

Are you missing out? Pensioners in	
Scotland underclaiming millions in	
benefits	12
Council Tax Reduction (CTR)	12
Housing Benefit for Pensioners	13
Could Pension Credit boost your	
income?	13
Disability support for	
older tenants in Scotland	14
Winter Heating Support for	
Pensioners in Scotland	15
Spotlight on Paisley Housing	
Association's Advice Team	15
Advice Team – how we	
performed In 2024/25	16
Asset Management	
Preparing your home for Autumn	17
Gas Safety- keeping you	
safe at home	17
Planned Programme of Works –	
Update for Tenants	18
Keeping your home healthy – new	

Welfare Benefit 8

100 AVE 100 Ave 100	A.
Property Factoring Service	
Owners and Tenants together	20
What is a Property Factor	20
Are you insured?	
Factoring Review	
Are you an owner?	
Thinking of selling?	21
Factoring Payments & Support	22
How to get in touch with us – for	
owners	22
Digital Inclusion	
Cheaper Broadband &	
Phone Packages	
Our Amazon Dots Giveaway	
Struggling to afford mobile data?	23
Keep your online student life	
for 2025 trouble-free	24
Our Community: Autumn	
Activities plus Help & Support	
Great activities this Autumn	25
Employability & Learning Support	30
Kid's Corner	32
Cosy nights in	33
Help & Support	34
Contact Details	36

Customer Satisfaction Survey – Coming Soon!

To make sure we continue to deliver high-quality services that meet your needs, we'll be carrying out our 3 yearly Customer Satisfaction Survey during September 2025.

This is your opportunity to tell us what we're doing well, and where we need to do better.



We've commissioned Research Resource, an independent research company, to carry out the survey on our behalf. They'll be speaking directly with a selection of our tenants.

What to Expect:

- Surveys will be carried out face-to-face or over the phone throughout September.
- If you're selected, a trained interviewer from Research Resource may visit your home or call you.

- All interviewers will carry official ID and a verification letter from Paisley Housing Association.
- Your feedback will be completely confidential. No personal information will be shared with us unless you give your permission.
- The results will help us understand what's working, where we can improve, and what's most important to you.

Sharing the Results and Shaping Services

After the survey is complete, we will share a summary of the results with our tenants. We'll highlight what you told us, what actions we plan to take, and how your feedback will directly influence the way we deliver and improve our services. We are committed to listening and acting on what you have to say.

If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate you taking the time to participate.

Your voice helps shape the future of our services.

A Magical Day at the Panto again! - and we're doing it again!

Last year, Paisley Housing Association brought festive joy to over 200 local school children by treating them to a special trip to the PACE Theatre for the Annual Christmas pantomime, and what a day it was!

Our local children, from schools right here in Paisley, were filled with laughter, excitement, and the magic that only a live panto can bring. For many, it was their first time at the theatre, and it's safe to say the joy on their faces was the best gift of all.

We're thrilled to announce that we'll be doing it all again this year!

Keep an eye out!! We'll be contacting our tenants with children and promoting families to attend. We will be sharing updates as the trip approaches. It's set to be another unforgettable day of fun, laughter, and festive cheer!

Let the countdown to Christmas begin!



Your Feedback, Our Focus



We're excited to launch
Your Feedback, Our Focus.

This is a section in our newsletter and tenant communications that highlights how your ideas, questions, and concerns are helping us improve our services and community.

Whether you've chatted with a staff member, filled in a survey, or shared your thoughts at a tenant event, we want to show you how your feedback leads to real action. This isn't just about listening, it's about responding, learning, and making meaningful change together.

In this Autumn edition, we're focusing on:

Stronger community connections

You told us you wanted more ways to get involved in your local area. We've pulled together a full list of events in Paisley and Renfrewshire, you'll find the details in our Community section, starting on page 26.

Better communication

You said you don't always know what's happening in your area. We've responded by boosting our newsletter content, improving local updates, and promoting more community events.

This is just the beginning. **Your Feedback, Our Focus** will be a regular feature to keep you updated on what's happening, and how your voice helps shape the services we deliver.

Want to share your thoughts?

Get in touch online, call us, talk to your Housing Officer, attend a tenant meeting, or take part in our next Tenant Satisfaction Survey.

Together, we're building a better place to live.

Tenant Profiling Exercise — Thank You!

We recently launched our Tenant Profiling Exercise to hear directly from you, our tenants, about what matters most in your homes and neighbourhoods.

We asked:



What improvements would you like to see in your homes and communities?



How can we better connect you to your local area?



What services or support are missing that we could help develop?



A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views. Your feedback is vital and will help shape the services we provide to better meet your needs.

For any tenants who haven't yet returned the questionnaire, don't worry – we'll be carrying out more home visits to ensure everyone has a chance to take part and be heard.

Congratulations to our prize draw winner – Christine Halliday!

Well done and thank you for taking part!



Your Housing. Your Say.

Get involved in tenant scrutiny at **Paisley Housing Association**.

Do you want to make a real difference to your housing services?

Join tenants across Scotland who are working with their landlords to improve services, increase satisfaction, and make sure their voices

Tenant scrutiny gives you the chance to help shape the way Paisley Housing Association.



Scrutiny has helped me understand how decisions are made – and how I can influence them for the better.

Tenant Representative, West Lothian

What is tenant scrutiny?

Tenant Scrutiny is a way for tenants to:



- Work together to review how housing services are delivered.
- Ask questions and challenge decisions using clear facts and information.
- Influence changes that lead to better services and value for money.
- It's about partnership tenants and staff working together to make things better.

Your role

As a member of the Paisley Housing Association Scrutiny Group, you will:

- Take part in reviewing services and performance.
- Recommend ways to improve how things are done.
- Make sure services meet tenants' needs and expectations.
- Work towards better value for money for everyone.

You don't need any previous experience – just a willingness to get involved. Independent advice, training and support will be provided by the Tenants Information Service (TIS).

We made real changes by looking into how the housing improvement programme was delivered. It's good to know our input made a difference.

Tenant Representative, East Ayrshire

Get involved

For further information about the Scrutiny Group and to get involved, please contact Marina McCall at Paisley Housing Association on **0141 889 7105** or email marina.mccall@paisleyha.org.uk

Good News from Paisley Housing Association!

We're delighted to share that Paisley Housing Association has been confirmed as fully compliant by the Scottish Housing Regulator for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

What does this mean for you?



Scottish Housing Regulator

It means we're meeting all the standards expected of us, including strong governance and sound financial management. In simple terms, we're doing things right behind the scenes so we can continue delivering 'A safe, happy, healthy and thriving community'.

Thank you for being part of our journey and helping us achieve this positive outcome!

Let us know if you'd like to know more about how we're performing – we're always happy to share.

Policy UpdatesYour voice matters

Why we share Policy Updates

Our policies guide how we deliver services, respond to repairs, support tenants and build community.

By keeping you updated, we aim to:

- Help you understand how decisions are made
- Show how your feedback influences our work
- Encourage open dialogue between tenants and staff

We know that when tenants are informed they feel more confident, more involved and more valued.

Your views matter

We don't just want to inform you – we want to involve you. So keep an eye out for more updates and please take part when you can.

Together we can shape a community that reflects all of us.

Get involved – become a Member for just £1!

Help us to help you to share your community by being a member of the Association. For a one-off fee of £1 you will receive lifetime membership which allows you to attend every Annual General Meeting that is usually around September, where you'll hear about our performance over the year and

have the opportunity to ask any questions and provide feedback.

Are you interested in becoming a Board Member? The membership will give you a chance to apply to join. As a Board member, you can play an active role in shaping the strategic direction of the Association. Our Board is made up of dedicated volunteers who meet around eight times per year.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Association or Board member, please contact Sandra Marshall by email at **Sandra.marshall@paisleyha.org.uk** or telephone **0141 583 4124**.

Keep us updated...

Have you changed your phone number or email address recently?

If so, it's important to let us know!

Keeping your contact details up to date means we can keep you informed about:

- Local community news and activities
- Support services that may be available to you
- Repairs, planned maintenance programmes, and safety inspections – like your annual gas safety check
- Tenant surveys and feedback opportunities

We regularly send out surveys by text and email because we value your opinion. But if we don't have your current details, you might miss the chance to have your say.

Please also let us know your preferred method of contact – phone, email, or both – so we can get in touch in the way that suits you best.

You can update your contact details in any of the following ways:

- Telephone Call our office on **0141 889 7105**. Our reception staff will take your new details.
- Email Send your updated information to admin@paisleyha.org.uk
- Website www.paisleyha.org.uk/contact-us/



Our Garden Competition!

We are delighted to welcome back our Annual Garden and Balcony Competition this year.

This year there were three categories:

Individual Garden Tenement Garden

Balcony and Window

The competition was judged this year by Paul from M Squared our Landscaping Services provider and Alan Graham, our Advice and Projects Manager.

Paul and Alan were really impressed by the quality of the gardens and there were a lot of tenants that had put their own individual stamp on their garden. This made judging the competition particularly difficult and it was very closely contested.

We awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category and each placed household received a B&Q voucher. £100 for 1st place, £50 for 2nd place and £25 for 3rd place.

This year's winners in each category were:

Individual Garden

1st Place: Mr and Mrs Weir – Montrose Road

2nd Place: Mr Gronan - Foxbar Rd

3rd Place (joint): Ms Milligan – Hollows Avenue3rd Place (joint): Ms Walton – Heriot Avenue

Tenement Garden

1st Place: Mr & Mrs Lafferty — Oliphant Cres **2nd Place:** Anonymous — Argyle Street **3rd Place:** Mr Stachura — Mannering Road

Balcony and window

1st Place: Ms Mitchelson – Mannering Road **2nd Place:** Ms Morgan – Mannering Road **3rd Place:** Anonymous – Mannering Road



There was an additional property which the judges felt deserved special recognition for sculpting their hedge to resemble a train. While the garden as a whole did not place, the judges appreciated the significant effort to accomplish this and decided to make a special recognition award of a £25 B&Q voucher to Ms McKirdy of Montrose Road.

















Responsible Pet Owners!

We understand that having a pet can help provide health benefits as well as increase emotional well-being but being a pet owner comes

with responsibilities too!

Unfortunately, a small number of dog owners are irresponsible and allow pets to foul in shared and common areas, creating frustration and mess for their neighbours.

If you witness someone allowing their dog to foul in a shared area without cleaning it up, please report it to us. We will investigate and, where necessary, take appropriate action to help ensure a cleaner, safer environment for everyone.

The Renfrewshire dog warden service can also be contacted for various issues related to dogs. You can report irresponsible dog owners or dog fouling by calling **0300 300 0380**. The council can issue **Fixed Penalty Notices (£80 fines)** if someone is caught not cleaning up after their dog.

If you do have a pet – please contact your housing officer and ask for a pet registration form.

Bulk Collection Information — how to report

It is important that you report any bulk to the Association so that it can be collected promptly.

If you have bulk items to be uplifted, you can report them in one of the following ways:

- Email: Send details to bulk@paisleyha.org.uk
- Phone: Call **0141 889 7105**, then choose **option 8** to leave a message

When reporting bulk items, please include:

- A clear description and quantity of each item
- The exact location of the items (e.g., front, side, or rear of property)

Collection Schedule

- Our contractor receives a weekly list every Wednesday
- Items are usually collected within7–14 days of being reported
- Persistent Organic Pollutants
 (POPs) items (e.g. mattresses,
 sofas) may take longer due to
 special disposal requirements

Note: POPs are harmful chemicals that don't break down naturally. These items must be incinerated rather than sent to landfill.

We aim to have all reported bulk uplifted **within 14 days**. However, if your items have not been collected within this time, please contact us again so we can investigate and follow up directly.

If you are **not satisfied** with any aspect of the bulk uplift service, we encourage you to let us know. Your feedback helps us improve and ensures we can address any issues promptly.











Your landlord does not cover your home contents and personal belongings.

So it's a good idea to consider what a home contents insurance policy would cover you for.

When you move into your property, you should think about protecting your personal possessions and home contents.

The Thistle Tenant Risks home contents insurnace scheme can cover most of your household contens such as furniture, carpets curtains, clothes, bedding, electrical items, jewellery, pictures and ornaments.

All tenants and residents are eligible to apply for the Thistle Home Contents Insurance Scheme, which can cover your home contents and belongings against, fire, theft, water damage and flood.

Reasons to choose the Thistle Insurance Scheme:

- Apply over the telephone.
- Covers loss or damage to your contents caused by specific events such as theft, water damage, fire and many more household risks.
- Covers tenants improvements (up to £2,000 or 20% of the sum insured).
- Covers theft or attempted theft of contents in sheds, outbuildings and garages (up to £3,000)
- Covers damage to external glazing for which you are responsible for.
- We will pay up to £500 for replacement and installation of locks for outside doors or windows and alarms, if keys are lost or stolen.
- You don't need to have special door or window locks just a lockable front door.
- Flexible regular payment options (fortnightly & monthly payments include a transaction charge).

Would you like a member of the Thistle Insurance team to call you back at a convenient time, to discuss cover, optional covers available, and premiums?

Visit www.thistletenants-scotland.co.uk and request a call back today!



These are just some of the features, limits and exclusions of the Policy. For more information about our Policy, please refer to the Insurance Product Information Document (IPID) and Policy Wording, which is available on request.

Having issues with paying rent?

Please get in touch if you are having issues paying your rent. It's important that if you are struggling with your rent or other finances, you speak to us as soon as possible.

Please contact your Housing Officer in the first instance, their contact details are listed below.

Your Housing Officer Contacts

Patch A – Foxbar Rivers/West End/Town Centre Samantha Templeton © 0141 583 4129 samantha.templeton@paisleyha.org.uk

Patch B - Foxbar / Glenburn George Gray **©** 0141 583 4107 ■ george.gray@paisleyha.org.uk

Patch C - South & Town Centre Jacqueline McLachlan © 0141 583 4125 igaz jackie.mclachlan@paisleyha.org.uk

igaz jackie.mclachlang.uk

How your Housing Officer can help

Your Housing Officer can work with you to:

- Identify suitable payment options
- Set up affordable repayment arrangements
- Check if you're entitled to any benefits or financial support
- Refer you to support agencies
- Provide food and fuel bank vouchers

They can also refer you to our Welfare Benefit Advice Team, who offer specialist support with:

- Benefits and entitlements
- Money and debt advice
- Energy bills and efficiency
- Understanding how any changes may affect you

You can contact the Advice Team directly at: adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk • 0141 889 7105 (Option 7)



Don't delay – get in touch

Missing rent payments can lead to increased debt, and in serious cases, legal action to recover arrears, court costs, and possession of your home. However, by contacting us early, we can often help you avoid this. We're here to help - please don't wait until it's too late.

Service Contracts and our commitment to you —

> To make sure you get the best value for money, we carry out regular weekly checks on 10% of all service contracts. This helps us monitor the quality of services such as close cleaning, landscaping, and bulk collection, and ensures contractors are meeting their responsibilities.

We also welcome your feedback. If you notice any issues or have comments about these services, please let us know:



Email: Admin@paisleyha.org.uk Call: 0141 889 7105



By carrying out these checks and listening to your feedback, we are making sure the services you pay for are properly managed and continually improved.

Tenant Surgeries

Our Tenant Surgeries are designed to ensure we are meeting the needs of our tenants within our local communities. These drop-in sessions provide an accessible opportunity for tenants to speak directly with our team about any tenancy-related concerns, get advice, and access support. By bringing our services closer to where people live, we aim to make it easier for tenants to engage with us and receive the help they need to sustain their tenancies.

Town Centre/ West End Surgery

Venue: Paisley Baptist

Church.

14 Lady Lane PA1 2LJ

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Wednesday 15th October

Wednesday 3rd December



PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION TOWN CENTRE/WEST END

WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2025

2:00pm - 3:30pm Paisley Baptist Church, 14 Lady Lane, PAI 2LJ

Glenburn Surgery

Venue: Glenburn

Community Centre, Fairway Avenue,

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Tuesday 7th October

PA2 8DX

Tuesday 2nd December



PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION **GLENBURN SURGERY**

TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2025

10.00am -11.30am

Glenburn community centre Fairway avenue, PA2 8DX

Foxbar Surgery

Venue: Foxbar Youth

Drop-In Centre, Findhorn Avenue

PA2 ONP

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Thursday 9th October

Paisley

PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION **FOXBAR SURGERY**

THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2025

10:00am - 11:30am

South Area Surgery

Venue: South End

Action Centre. 51-55 Stock Street

PA2 6NGX

Thursday 18th September

10.00am - 11.30am

Wednesday 22nd October



PAISLEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION SOUTH AREA SURGERY

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025 10am till 11.30am



in benefits

Are you missing out? Pensioners in Scotland underclaiming millions

Every year, hundreds of millions of pounds in benefits go unclaimed by older people in Scotland. As a housing association, we want to make sure our tenants aren't missing out on support that could make a real difference to their lives.

Last year, our Advice Team uncovered £0.5 million in unclaimed benefits, but this could be just the tip of the iceberg.

From Pension Credit and Housing Benefit to Council Tax Reduction and Pension Age Disability Payment, many pensioners are entitled to more than they realise.

Why are benefits going unclaimed?

Research by the Scottish Government has identified several key barriers that stop older people from claiming benefits:

- **Stigma:** Some people feel embarrassed or ashamed to ask for help.
- Complexity: The benefits system can be confusing, especially with different rules for UK and Scottish benefits.
- Lack of awareness: Many pensioners simply don't know what they're entitled to.
- **Trust issues:** Past experiences or fear of bureaucracy can discourage people from applying.

These barriers are especially common among socially isolated or housebound older adults – groups that are more likely to miss out on support, but our advice team staff are here to help navigate the system.

What could you be missing?

Here are just a few examples of benefits that older tenants may be eligible for:

- Pension Credit: Tops up your income and unlocks other support like free dental care and Winter Fuel Payments.
- **Housing Benefit:** Helps with rent costs for those on low incomes.
- Council Tax Reduction: Helps lower your council tax bill.
- Pension Age Disability Payment: Replaces
 Attendance Allowance in Scotland and supports
 those with care needs.

For example, last year we helped one couple uncover £32,000 of additional benefits per year, as well as securing £4,500 of backdated benefits.

What can you do?

Check our guide to these benefits on the next few pages and if you need more help, you can contact our Advice Team on **0141 583 4123** or by email on **adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk**.

Council Tax Reduction (CTR)

Council Tax Reduction helps lower your Council Tax bill if you're on a low income or receiving certain benefits and for pensioners is usually assessed at the same time as Housing Benefit.

You may qualify for CTR if:

- You're responsible for paying Council Tax
- You're on a low income
- You have savings below £16,000 (unless you receive Pension Credit Guarantee)

If you receive the **guarantee part of Pension Credit**, your income and savings are ignored, and you'll usually qualify for Council Tax Reduction.

Even if you don't qualify for CTR, you might be eligible for a **Second Adult Reduction** if another adult, who is not your partner, in your home is on a low income.

If you need help

Our Advice Team can do a benefit check to see if you will be eligible for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction.

Housing Benefit for Pensioners

Housing Benefit helps cover the cost of rent for people on low incomes. While most claims for working age tenants are now handled through Universal Credit, pensioners can still apply for Housing Benefit if BOTH you and your partner (if you have one) have reached State Pension age, which is currently 66.

The amount you receive depends on:

- Your income and savings
- Who lives with you
- Your rent amount and housing type

If you receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit, your income and savings are ignored, and you will usually receive an award of Housing Benefit.

If Housing Benefit doesn't cover your full rent, you may be eligible for a **Discretionary Housing Payment** to help with the shortfall.

Could Pension Credit boost your income?

Pension Credit is a benefit that many older tenants may be missing out on – yet it could make a big difference to your weekly income and help with housing costs.

As a housing association, we want to make sure our tenants are aware of all the support available. If you're over State Pension age and on a low income, Pension Credit could help you live more comfortably and access other valuable benefits.

What is Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit for people over 66 (the current State Pension age). It's designed to top up your income and help with the cost of living. There are two parts:

- **Guarantee Credit:** Ensures your weekly income is at least £227.10 if you're single, or £346.60 if you're a couple.
- Savings Credit: A small extra payment for those who saved some money for retirement (only available to those who reached pension age before April 2016).

Why it matters for tenants

If you qualify for Pension Credit, you may also be entitled to:

- Housing Benefit or help with rent.
- Council Tax reductions.
- Free NHS dental treatment, glasses, and travel to hospital.
- A **free TV licence** if you're over 75.
- Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments.

Even if you have savings, you might still be eligible – so it's worth checking.

Who can apply?

You may be eligible if:

- You're over 66.
- Your income is below the Pension Credit thresholds.

You might still qualify if you:

Care for someone.

Have a disability.

Look after a child or young person.

How to Apply

You can apply:

- Online at gov.uk/pension-credit
- By phone:Call 0800 99 1234
- Or speak to our Advice
 Team to see if you might
 be entitled.

Don't miss out

Many people don't claim
Pension Credit because they
think they won't qualify – but
over **850,000 eligible**pensioners in the UK aren't
claiming it.
Don't let that be you.

If you're unsure, talk to your housing officer or contact a local advice service. A quick check could lead to extra





Pension Age Disability Payment is now available across Scotland – and it could make a real difference for many of our tenants.

This new benefit replaces Attendance Allowance and is designed to support people over State Pension age who have a disability or long-term health condition that affects their daily life. Whether you need help getting dressed, taking medication, or staying safe at home, this payment could help cover the extra costs.

What is it?

Pension Age Disability Payment is not means-tested, so your income and savings won't affect your eligibility.

It's paid at two weekly rates depending on your care needs:

- £73.90 if you need help during the day or night.
- £110.40 if you need help during both the day and night, or if you're terminally ill.

You don't need a formal diagnosis to apply, and you don't need to have someone caring for you to qualify.

Who can apply?

You may be eligible if:

- You live in Scotland.
- You're over State Pension age (currently 66).
- You've had care or supervision needs for at least six months due to a physical, mental, or sensory condition (e.g. dementia, sight or hearing loss)

If you're terminally ill, you can apply immediately and will automatically receive the higher rate.

How to apply

You can apply:

- By phone: Call Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.
- Our Advice Team can help you complete your form.

If you already receive Attendance Allowance, you don't need to reapply. Social Security Scotland will transfer your award automatically during 2025.

If you already receive Personal Independence Payment, Adult Disability Payment or Disability Living Allowance you may not be able to apply, and we would encourage you to check whether you are eligible before applying.

Why it matters for tenants

Receiving Pension Age Disability Payment can also increase your entitlement to other benefits, such as:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction
- Pension Credit

This means more financial support and more £££ in your pockets to help with rent and household bills—especially important during the ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

We encourage all eligible tenants to check if they qualify. Even if you've lived with your condition for a long time, you might be underestimating your care needs. A quick conversation with your housing officer or a local advice service could lead to extra support.

Let's make sure no one misses out.

Winter heating Support for pensioners in Scotland: what you need to know

As the colder months approach, many of our tenants may be wondering what help is available to cover heating costs. The good news is that Pension Age Winter Heating Payment is now in place to support older people in Scotland – and there have been some important changes this year.

What's changed?

The UK-wide Winter Fuel Payment – previously paid by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – has now been replaced in Scotland by a devolved benefit called the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (PAWHP)

This new payment is designed to help pensioners with the cost of heating their homes during winter. It was introduced in 2024 and will be fully administered by Social Security Scotland from winter 2025 onwards.

How much will you get?

The amount depends on your age during the qualifying week (usually mid-September):

- **£203.40** for those aged 66–79
- **£305.10** for those aged 80 and over

Only one payment is made per household, even if both partners are eligible.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, you must:

- Live in Scotland
- Be aged 66 or over during the qualifying week
- Have an annual income of £35.000 or less



How to claim

You don't need to apply. If you're eligible, the payment will be made automatically from December. You'll receive a letter confirming the amount and payment date.

If you think you've been missed or underpaid, you can contact Social Security Scotland or the DWP, depending on who issued your payment.



Spotlight on Paisley Housing Association's Advice Team

At Paisley Housing
Association, supporting
tenants goes far beyond
providing quality homes.
The dedicated Advice
Team plays a vital role in
helping tenants and their
families navigate financial
challenges, access
benefits, and maintain
stability in their lives.

Our Advice Team will also be a key part of our new Hub, delivering more faceto-face appointments to increase the support we can give our tenants.

What we do

PHA's Advice Team offers free, confidential, and impartial support in three key areas:

- Welfare Benefits Advice Helping tenants understand and apply for benefits they're entitled to.
- Money Advice Supporting budgeting and providing advice on basic money issues.
- Energy Advice Assisting with energy efficiency, reducing bills, problems with metering arrangements dealing with issues with energy suppliers and accessing grants.

Whether it's understanding Universal Credit, applying for a Disability Benefit, or dealing with energy suppliers, the team is here to guide tenants through every step.

How to Get in Touch

Tenants can reach the Advice
Team by phone on
0141 583 4123 or email at
adviceteam@paisleyha.org.uk

Why it matters

In a time of rising costs and complex systems, PHA's Advice Team ensures that no tenant faces these challenges alone. Their work not only improves financial wellbeing but also strengthens the community by ensuring that people can remain in their homes and maximising their financial ability to live a full life.

Advice Team — how we performed in 2024/25

Our Advice Team delivered a massive amount of support to our tenants this year, supporting **687 tenants with 1680 separate issues**. This was an increase from 472 tenants with 1217 issues in 2023/24.

A large focus since summer 2024 has been on the final stages of the migration from legacy benefits (like Housing Benefit, Tax Credits, ESA, JSA and Income Support) to Universal Credit. By March 2026 this should be complete, and all Working Age tenants will have migrated to the new Universal Credit.

The final group to migrate are tenants receiving ESA, who have needed extra support to transfer which we have been happy to provide.

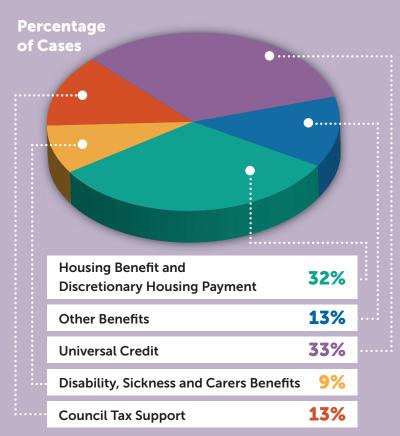
We have also increased the provision of Energy Advice in the last year by having a dedicated Home Energy Adviser, Susan McKenna, who has provided detailed and in-depth support around matters relating to Energy usage. Susan has helped a lot of our tenants, in particular she has been assisting tenants to complain to their energy provider and the Energy Ombudsman, when providers have not been fulfilling their responsibilities.

The number of cases for each advice area are highlighted below:

Case Details Matter Category	Number of cases 2024/25	Number of cases 2023/24
Welfare Rights	1113	817
Energy Advice	420	229
Money Guidance	137	171
Total	1670	1217

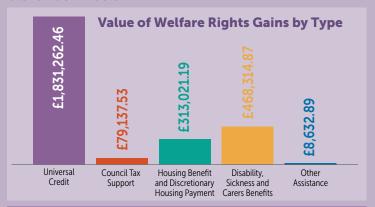
The breakdown of the type of Welfare Rights cases are as follows:

- Universal Credit: 365 cases
- Council Tax Benefits: 150 cases
- Disability/Carers/Sickness Benefits: 106 cases
- Help with Housing Costs: 351 cases
- Other Benefits: 141 cases



Through this support the service delivered massive gains for Paisley HA tenants, helping them claim nearly £2.7million in extra benefits, and saving £86,000 on their Energy Bills. This is a massive amount of money and has involved a lot of hard work particularly in relation to the new Universal Credit dealing with 362 enquiries for this, 100 of which involved a new claim or a tenant migrating from existing benefits.

The value of Welfare Rights gains by benefit type are broken down below:



Thanks to £90,000 of additional funding, we have been able to offer an expanded advice offering, which has included a partnership supporting the advice service at Williamsburgh Housing Association.

Gas Safetykeeping you safe at home

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING









SEEN

CAN'T BE CAN'T BE SMELLED HEARD

STOPPED

Your safety is our top priority and that includes making sure your gas appliances are working properly. Every year annually, we carry out Gas Safety Checks in all our properties with gas pipework or appliances.

These checks are **required by law** and help protect you, your family, and your neighbours.

What you need to know:

- It's quick and easy: The check usually takes less than an hour.
- It's important: Faulty gas appliances can lead to serious risks, including carbon monoxide poisoning.

When your gas check is due:

We'll send you a notification. Please contact us as soon as possible to arrange access. Most of our tenants are brilliant about this so thank you! If we can't get access after several attempts, we may need to force entry to carry out the check. We really want to avoid this, so please help us keep things simple and safe.

Need a Carbon Monoxide Detector?

If you don't have a working Carbon Monoxide Detector in place, please give us a call on **0141 583 4100** and we'll fit one free of charge. Thank you for helping us keep your home safe and sound.

Preparing your home for Autumn: what tenants should know

As the seasons shift and cooler weather approaches, it's a great time to make sure your home is ready for Autumn. With our maintenance repair service here to support you, a few simple checks can help keep your space warm, safe, and comfortable.

Heating Checks

Before temperatures drop, it's important to ensure your heating is working properly.

- If your radiators aren't heating evenly, they may need bleeding - contact our maintenance team and we'll take care of it.
- Report any issues with your boiler or central heating system as soon as possible.

Stop the Drafts

Cold air can sneak in through small gaps, making your home less energy efficient.

- If you notice drafts around windows or doors, let us know - we'll assess, and seal where needed.
- We can also advise on simple ways to keep your home warmer without increasing energy costs.

Outdoor Safety

Falling leaves and wet weather can create hazards around your home.

- Our team regularly clears communal gutters and drains, but if you spot a blockage or slippery area, please report it.
- We'll also ensure outdoor lighting is working properly – just let us know if a bulb needs replacing.







Planned Programme of Works — Update for Tenants

We want to keep you up to date on the investment we're making in your homes. Our Planned Programme of Works is designed to ensure that properties are safe, modern, and comfortable. Below is an update on the main programmes currently underway.

Boiler Replacement Programme 2024-2025

So far, more than 90 homes have benefited from a new boiler and thermostat upgrade. These improvements will help to make homes more energy efficient and easier to heat. Our contractor, PH Jones, will be sending out a final round of letters to arrange access for the remaining surveys. If you receive a letter, please get in touch quickly to confirm your appointment.

Boiler Replacement Programme 2025-2026

Almost 100 properties are included in this year's programme. Tenants will be contacted in the coming months to arrange a survey of their home, which is the first step before installation.

Once surveys are complete, replacement works will follow.

Kitchen Replacement Programme 2025-2026

We are delighted that over 250 homes are included in the kitchen upgrade programme this year. Our approved contractor, CCG, has been carrying out surveys over the summer. However, we've experienced a high number of no-access visits.

- If CCG was unable to gain access at your first appointment, you will shortly receive another letter offering a new date.
- Works began in mid-August 2025 and are expected to continue into early 2026 (subject to change).

Why access is important

To carry out improvements, it's essential that our contractors can gain access to your property. Missing appointments can delay the works and may mean your home isn't upgraded as planned. If you receive a letter, please make every effort to be at home for the arranged date, or contact us straight away if you need to rearrange.







Looking Ahead

We'll continue to keep you updated on progress with all our planned works programmes. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us deliver these improvements for you and your neighbours.

Keeping your home healthy – new Humidistat fan project

We're pleased to let you know about an important project we're carrying out in tenants' homes with the installation of humidistat fans.

These fans are designed to automatically detect moisture in the air and switch on only when



needed. This means better ventilation, less condensation, and reduced risk of damp and mould, helping to keep your home healthier and more comfortable.

By maintaining good air quality, the fans also protect your walls, ceilings, and fittings, saving you from potential damage and costly repairs in the future. Bathrooms and kitchens, where condensation builds up most, will particularly benefit from this improvement.

Why we need access

To complete this project, we'll need access to your property so that our contractors can fit the fans. We'll always arrange appointments in advance, and our team will do their best to keep disruption to a minimum.

What this means for you

- A healthier living environment
- Less risk of mould growth and related health issues
- Improved comfort with minimal maintenance

This is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting tenants and ensuring homes remain safe, well-maintained, and energy efficient.

Thank you for your co-operation in giving our staff access when required. Together, we can make sure your home stays in the best condition possible.





Lift Safety

Staying Safe

Lifts are a vital part of everyday life in multi-storey buildings. Whether you're heading to work, coming home with shopping bags, or simply avoiding the stairs, lifts make life easier. But like any piece of machinery, they need regular care and responsible use to stay safe.

Regular Maintenance Matters

We carry out routine inspections and servicing of all lifts in our buildings to ensure they meet strict safety standards.

These checks follow UK regulations.

What this means for you:

- Lifts are thoroughly examined by qualified engineers.
- Any faults are repaired promptly.
- Safety features like emergency alarms and door sensors are tested regularly.

What you can do!!

Help us keep lifts safe and reliable by following these simple tips:

Don't overload the lift – check the weight limit before entering.

Keep doors clear – never block or force them open.

Report issues immediately – if you notice strange noises, jerky movement, or anything unusual, let us know.



Use the emergency button only in real emergencies.

We are responsible for maintaining and inspecting the lifts, but your safety also depends on how lifts are used day-to-day. If a lift is out of order, please be patient while we work to fix it safely.

Need to Report a Lift Issue?

Call us on **0141 583 4100**, our Asset Team will get our contractor to attend. Quick reporting helps us act fast and keep everyone safe.

What is a Property Factor?

A property factor is responsible for managing and maintaining the shared or communal areas of a building or development on behalf of the property owners. These areas may include stairwells, roofs, gutters, gardens, boundary walls, car parks, and other parts of the property that are jointly owned or used.

The key responsibilities of a property factor include:

- Organising repairs and maintenance of shared areas
- Instructing and overseeing contractors to carry out necessary work
- Arranging buildings insurance for the whole property where applicable
- Managing service charges and accounting for shared costs
- Ensuring compliance with relevant health and safety and legal obligations

At Paisley South Property Service, we carry out all these duties in line with the **Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011**, which sets out the legal framework for how factoring services must be delivered in Scotland. This includes requirements around transparency, communication, dispute resolution, and providing a Written Statement of Services to every owner.

Our role is to ensure that communal areas are well-maintained, costs are fairly shared, and owners are kept informed at every step of the way. We aim to deliver a fair, reliable, and professional service that protects your property and enhances your home environment.

Owners and Tenants together

A new chapter providing a joint newsletter for property factored owners

Paisley Housing Association is excited to announce a new approach to community involvement from now on, our owner-occupiers will receive the same newsletter as tenants, giving everyone access to the latest updates, community initiatives, and housing news.

Why the change?

Our neighbourhoods are shaped by everyone who lives here, whether you rent or own your home. By sharing information in one place, we hope to:

- Strengthen our community bonds
- Encourage shared pride in our developments
- Keep everyone informed about local projects, planned and cyclical maintenance work, and safety guidance
- Offer equal access to resident engagement opportunities
- Welfare Benefit & Energy Advice

Under our Asset Maintenance Section each edition will include Project Updates and Maintenance Update News.

Owner-Focused info still included - We haven't forgotten our owners' unique needs. While the newsletter is shared, owner-occupiers will continue to receive tailored relevant advice for them.

Owners — are you insured?

Recent tenement collapse in Glasgow highlights the importance of buildings insurance

On Saturday 12th July 2025, a tenement building on the



corner of Kenmure Street and Albert Drive in Glasgow, which had been vacant since a fire in 2020, collapsed. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but nearby residents were temporarily evacuated as a safety precaution.

While this was an isolated case involving a long-derelict building, it's a helpful reminder for all owners to regularly check that their property insurance is up to date and provides the right level of cover.

Having the right insurance in place gives peace of mind and helps protect your home and investment from unexpected events, such as fire or structural damage.

If you're unsure about your current insurance or would like guidance on arranging appropriate cover for your tenement or flat, we're here to help – **get in touch with us today**.

Property Factoring Service - Review in Progress

As your Property Factor we are committed to providing a high standard of service to all our Owner-Occupiers and continually seeking ways to improve. As part of this commitment, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of our Property Management Services, including all processes involved in our factoring service.

What are we reviewing?

This review will focus on several key areas:

- Our Written Statement of Services This document outlines our responsibilities as your property factor and what you can expect from us. It forms a key part of your relationship with us, and we want to ensure it is clear, up to date, and reflects best practice.
- ✓ Information Provided to Owners We're also reviewing the information we provide to both new and existing Owner-Occupiers to ensure it is transparent, informative, and easy to understand.
- Our Internal Processes From communication and billing to property maintenance and repairs, we're examining our systems to see where we can streamline and enhance efficiency and service quality.

Your voice matters – owner consultation

If, as a result of this review, we propose any changes to our Written Statement, we will carry out a formal consultation with all affected Owner-Occupiers before implementing any updates. This ensures your views are heard and considered as part of the decision-making process.

We believe that by working collaboratively with you, we can improve how our factoring services are delivered and continue to build a responsive and transparent relationship.

Staying Informed

We will keep you informed throughout the review process via our newsletters, website, and direct communication. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or concerns in the meantime, we encourage you to get in touch.

Are you an owner - thinking of selling your property?

In today's uncertain housing market, with rising and fluctuating house prices, selling a property can feel challenging. That's why Paisley Housing Association offers a flexible option for local Property Owners:

Why sell to Paisley Housing Association?

- No selling fees and no hassle involved
- Local and trusted buyer with a strong community presence
- £1 million annual investment in property improvements (kitchens, bathrooms, heating, rewiring, etc.)
- Simple and supported process from start to finish
- Proven track record with other owners already choosing this route

"Financially I could not afford to carry out necessary repairs to my property. I explained this to Paisley Housing Association, and I had an easier way to sell my property to them. I had no selling fees, and the process was so easy."

Property Owner Feedback

If you're considering selling, this could be a stress-free alternative to the traditional market route. In fact, several owners have already chosen this option, selling their property to us.

If you're considering selling for any reason, we'd love to hear from you. Our process is simple, straightforward, and fully supported at every stage.

Contact us today to find out more on 0141 889 7105 or email admin@paisleyha.org.uk

Factoring Payments & Support

Need help or advice?

If you're having difficulty paying your factoring bill, support is available.

Easy ways to pay, help if you need it

Paisley South Property Services is here to make things simple and supportive.

Ways to pay your Factoring Bill

Debit / Credit Card

Call **0141 840 5017** or 0141 889 7105 and press option 3 to make a payment.



Allpay Card

Use your card at any shop displaying the PayPoint symbol. Local outlet list available from our office or at www.allpay.net. Need a new card? Just contact us.



Direct Debit (Preferred Method)

Email steffani.mcdonald@paisleyha.org.uk or call 0141 840 5017 and Steffani will help you set this up.



Bank Transfer

Use your online banking to send payment to: Bank of Scotland, Account Number: 06000792,

Sort Code: 80-09-29

Important: Include your agreement reference from your invoice.



Advice Works

Free money advice and help with benefits, forms, and appeals.

Call 0300 300 1238

Visit

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/adviceworks

Citizens Advice Bureau

Free advice on money matters and benefits. Call 0800 085 7145 Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland

Our Welfare Benefits Service

Factored owners can access free. confidential support from our Advice Team. Call **0141 583 4123** to make an appointment. We'll help you check that you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to.

We're here to help — whether it's making a payment or getting advice. For more information, contact our office or visit our website.

How to get in touch with us — for owners

At Paisley South Property Services, we believe good communication is key to providing a reliable and responsive service. Whether you have a question, need help with something, or want to give us feedback we're here to listen.



Email us

You can contact us by email at: admin@paisleyha.org.uk We aim to respond to all enquiries as quickly as possible.



📞 Call us

Need to speak to someone directly? Give us a call on 0141 889 7105, we're happy to help.



Visit our website

Our website is a useful place to find information, updates and service details.



W Visit us in person

Prefer a face-to-face chat? You're welcome to visit our office, just give us a quick call beforehand to book a time that suits you.



Cheaper Broadband & Phone Packages

You might qualify for a Social Tariff!

Stay connected for less

Social tariffs are discounted broadband and phone deals for people on certain benefits. They're reliable, affordable, and easy to apply for.

What you could get

- Prices from £10-£20 per month
- No long contracts or exit fees
- Speeds suitable for everyday use

Who can apply?

You may qualify if you receive:

- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living
 Allowance (DLA)

Providers offering Social Tariffs

BT • Virgin Media • Sky / NOW Vodafone (Mobile)

Check provider websites or call for full details.

How to apply

- Visit the provider's website and search "social tariff"
- Or call their customer service line
- You may need to show proof of benefits





In our Summer Edition, we shared that we had 18 Amazon Dots to give away to tenants and owners, thanks to generous funding from AbilityNet.

These smart devices can make daily life a little easier by offering voice-activated support with reminders, information, and communication.

We're delighted to say all 18 have now found a good home.

Struggling to afford mobile data?

In partnership with the Good Things Foundation, Paisley Housing Association is offering FREE SIM cards to help tenants stay connected.

We can help if you are a Tenant or a Property Owner – free SIM cards are available now.

To qualify, you must:

- Be 18 or over
- Have a working mobile phone to activate the SIM
- and meet one or more of the following:

No or poor access to the internet at home

No or poor access to the internet when out and about

Can't afford your current mobile contract or top-up

Please note: Before collecting a SIM card, please scan the QR code and complete the short form. or complete the survey here:

https://forms.office.com/e/A0hSVq7293



Keep your online student life for 2025 trouble-free — with help from Get Safe Online

Starting at uni or college means a lot more happens online — from managing your courses to sorting out your money and social life. With so much going digital, it's super important to know how to stay safe and avoid the common online risks.

OK, we get it, your schedule is going to be packed. So our experts have put together some super easy tips to help you stay protected without getting in the way of your busy student life.

Scams

Texts, emails, DMs, or calls pretending to be from banks, student loans – and even immigration authorities if you're an international student – are an everyday occurrence. Can you tell them from the real thing, especially in these days of Al? Always pause before clicking links, opening attachments or giving anyone access to your accounts or devices. If you suspect a message or website is a scam, run it past the Alpowered fraud detection tool Ask Silver at

www.getsafeonline.org/asksilver

Banking & finance

Keep your financial details private. Use trusted apps or mobile wallets for payments. And if you're unsure about money matters, your Student Money Adviser is a great go-to.

Shopping

Trying a new website? Check if it's legit before buying or signing up — the Check a Website tool on Get Safe Online can help with that.

Payments

Avoid bank transfers to pay people or businesses you don't know, either for things like rent or deposits or buying trainers or tech. Paying by card usually offers better protection.

Accommodation

Always check new student digs in person before paying anything. Make sure the landlord or agent is for real, and use a credit card for deposits where you can – it's safer that way.

Sharing

Keep passwords, financial info and personal details to yourself. Double-check all location settings to protect your privacy. And be cautious with sharing photos — even innocent ones can be misused.

Respect & responsibility

There's no place online for bullying, hate speech, other abuse or radicalisation. And remember that unis and future employers usually check social media accounts, so keep it clean, legal and respectful.

Devices & Wi-Fi

Don't leave your devices lying around: in the bar, on the bus or anywhere. Avoid Wi-Fi hotspots for anything private or financial as they mightn't be secure. Check your location and privacy settings regularly.

Gambling and gaming

Betting and gaming can both get addictive. If you think you're overdoing it, think about better ways to spend your time and money.

Dating

Choose and keep to reputable apps and keep chats inside the platform. Not everyone online is who they say they are, so if something seems off or just plain weird, don't hesitate to block or say no.

Gut instinct

Don't do anything that makes you uncomfortable — whether it's sharing photos, getting challenged to pranks or engaging in risky online behaviour. Don't pressure others either.

Too-good-to-be-true jobs

Be wary of work offers promising easy cash or using your bank account for payments. These can get you into serious trouble and even result in a criminal record.

Tech skills and the law

If you're big into coding or gaming, cybercriminals might try to lure you into illegal activity. Why not consider a career in cybersecurity instead?

#SafeOnlineStudentLife

- Spot scams and fake messages
- Keep your banking and payments
- Check websites before shopping
- Protect your devices and personal info
- Stay respectful and responsible online
- Avoid risky jobs, dating scams, and gaming traps

Stay smart. Stay safe. Stay focused
— with Get Safe Online.

What you post online stays online. Are you happy that everything you say could be seen by your Uni/college and potential recruiters?





At Paisley Housing Association, we believe in the power of community. Whether you're a tenant or a property owner, staying connected and getting involved can make a real difference. By joining local events, taking part in activities, or simply engaging in conversations, you're helping to build a neighbourhood that's stronger, safer, and more welcoming for everyone.

Check out our Community Section! - It's packed with up-to-date info on events, support services, local groups, and what's happening in and around Paisley.

Let's stay connected. Let's build something great together.

ongratulations

A Big Congratulations from Paisley Housing Association to the graduates from the University of the West of Scotland (UWS). The sun was shining for the graduates while they celebrated with their friends and families at the Abbey in Paisley.

Paisley Housing Associations wants to wish the graduates all the success for





Date and time

Sat, 18 Oct 2025 11:00 - 14:30 BST

Location

UWS Paisley Campus High Street Paisley PA1 2BE

There will be tours of the amazing facilities at Paisley Campus, enabling you to find out more about the innovative approach UWS takes to learning and

teaching, and see for yourself the technology-rich, innovative learning and

social spaces located across the lively campus. You'll get to see the campus including the modern, fully en-suite student accommodation, the gym, which is free for UWS students to use, and the Union, labs and lecture halls.

If you are interested in attending, you can contact them directly or get tickets from https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uws-autumn-open-day-paisley-campus-tickets-1374165639419?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse

In the Summer Edition of our Newsletter, we asked our tenants to

nominate someone for our...



Good Neighbour Award Paisley

We're proud to announce two fantastic winners:

Owen McDougall and Suzanne Harkens

A huge well done to both of you!

Your kindness and community spirit truly help make our neighbourhood a better place to live. Thank you for being shining examples of what it means to be a good neighbour.

Halloween **Festival**

Friday 24th October 4pm - 9pm (7pm Parade start) **Saturday 25th October** 2pm - 9pm (7pm Parade start)

The Centre point of the celebration will be at the town Centre- wide parade at 7pm each evening, featuring professional artists, costumed and choreographed community groups, large puppets, sound, and light.



Be sure to join in the fun!!

Walking Helps with Health & Wellbeing





Points of Interest

PAISLEY ABBEY
PAISLEY TOWN HALL OAKSHAW TRINITY A

COATS OBSERVATORY PETER BROUGH HOME FOR NURSES

COATS MEMORIAL CHURCH

These trails are brought to you by OneRen with support from the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership, and have been supported by Renfrewshire Health and Social Computations in the Computation of the Partnership in t

Walk About A Bit is two

family-friendly walking routes around Paisley,

taking you past many points of interest for

you to enjoy.

ONE REN Partnership



paths for a

FOR A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER SCOTLAND

PAISLEY ABBEY

PAISLEY TOWN HALL

SEEDHILL TANNERY OLD THREAD MILLS ANCHOR MILLS BRIDGE PY
SAUCEL HILL
ALEXANDRIA INFIRMARY BRODIE PARK CASTLEHEAD CHURCH SMA SHOT COTTAGES
BROWNS LANE MURALS
RUSSELL INSTITUTE

you to enjoy.

points of interest for

ONE Renfrewship

Walking the 'Walk About a Bit Route' helps with your health and well-being and will help you meet new people.

If you want to know more

www.oneren.org/wellbeing to find out more about walking in Renfrewshire.



Young people are counting down the days to the start of the school holidays and Street Stuff will be out and about in communities across Renfrewshire.

Multi-sports gaming and much more will be available for those aged 5 to 16 at venues across Renfrewshire throughout the week, with activities split by age groups across the day.

"It's a brilliant opportunity to brush up on your sporting skills and meet new people so come along to Street Stuff and have some fun."

For more information and to see the October Week program, visit www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/streetstuff.

Details of the events are below;

A free, healthy meal will be provided at every session, so the young people are fully energised to take part, and all are welcome to attend.

Monday 11 October

9:30am – 12:30pm (suitable for 5–8-year-olds) 1:30pm – 4:30pm (suitable for 9–16-year-olds)

Glencoats Primary School, Paisley St James' Primary School, Moorpark

Tuesday 12 October

9:30am – 12:30pm (suitable for 5–8-year-olds) 1:30pm – 4:30pm (suitable for 9–16-year-olds) Woodlands Primary School, Linwood St Paul's Primary School, Paisley

Wednesday 13 October

9:30am - 12:30pm (suitable for 5-8-year-olds) 1:30pm - 4:30pm (suitable for 9-16-year-olds)

West Johnstone Shared Campus Woodlands Primary School, Linwood Bargarran Primary School, Erskine

Thursday 14 October

9:30am - 12:30pm (suitable for 5-8-year-olds) 1:30pm - 4:30pm (suitable for 9-16-year-olds)

Bargarran Primary School, Erskine West Johnstone Shared Campus St Paul's Primary School, Paisley

Friday 15 October

9:30am - 12:30pm (suitable for 5-8-year-olds) 1:30pm - 4:30pm (suitable for 9-16-year-olds)

Glencoats Primary School, Paisley St James' Primary School, Moorpark

Paisley Museum Update

The transformation of Paisley Museum continues to progress, with work underway to bring this iconic historic building up to modern standards. Once complete, the museum will be protected for future generations and will serve as a major draw for thousands of visitors to Paisley town centre each year, delivering significant social and economic benefits for our community and local businesses.



Construction is now expected to be completed by the end of this year.
Following that, the fit-out phase will begin to prepare the museum's expanded galleries and display spaces. This will allow Paisley to showcase more of its incredible artefacts, heritage, and art than ever before.
We look forward to sharing further updates as we get closer to the muchanticipated reopening of this

fantastic cultural landmark.



Paisley Christmas Lights Switch-On 2025

Saturday 15 November 2025

As the nights draw in, there is preparation happening for the Paisley Christmas Lights Switch-On 2025 will take place in Paisley town centre on Saturday 15 November from 1pm-6pm. The programme will feature an outdoor stage with live acts, lighting installations, street performances.

Paisley Tours

Launched in 2013 as part of the charity Paisley Heritage, we've grown from a local initiative into a leading voice in Paisley's tourism and heritage sector. Our mission is to connect people with the town's fascinating past through immersive tours, cultural events, and digital storytelling.

But we're more than just a tour company. As a social enterprise, we're committed to supporting local businesses, boosting tourism, and contributing to Paisley's economic and cultural regeneration.

We work in partnership with VisitScotland, Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow Life, and local heritage sites to ensure Paisley's stories are

not only preserved - but brought to life for future generations.

Whether you're a visitor, a local resident, or an organisation looking to collaborate, Paisley Tours is your connection to the living history of our town. For further details visit the website: www.paisleytours.org.uk



Free monthly books for children in Renfrewshire: sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Families across Renfrewshire can now register their children to receive a free book every month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library—a global initiative dedicated to nurturing a love of reading.

How to Register

Signing up is simple and free:

- **1.** Visit the official Imagination Library website: imaginationlibrary.com/uk/find-my-programme.
- 2. Enter your postcode to confirm availability in your area.
- **3.** Complete the online registration form with your child's details.



By enrolling in the Imagination Library, you are giving your child the gift of reading a foundation that supports language development, imagination, and a lifelong love of books. Do not miss this opportunity to enrich your child's early years with the joy of reading.

Renfrewshire Libraries

What's on in our local libraries.

Some activities need to be booked in advance at https://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk/

Kid's Halloween spooky fun activities in the libraries during the October school holidays.

There's something to suit all ages – to find out more about all the free activities available, visit: https://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk/iguana/www.main.cls?p=13961a65-033a-4fdd-b6b1-cd91360ede1d&y=87f28cc0-3016-44eb-a185-1738fd6286ed

Foxbar Library

Book Group Meets on the last Thursday of the month, at 11.30am. Next meetings: 25th September, 30th October 2025. Please contact the library to find out availability and for more information.

Bookbug Story time, songs and rhymes for pre-school children. Please book in advance at

https://outlook.office365.com/book/FoxbarLibraryBookings@renfrewshirecouncilgov.onmicrosoft.com/?ismsaljsauthenabled=true

Please note, bookings become available 7 days before the sessions take place. Mondays and Fridays, 10am-10.30am. Tuesdays 1.30pm-2pm.

Councillor Surgery - Kevin Montgomery 1st Saturday of the month, 10am - 10.45pm. Next Surgery date: 4th October and 1st November 2025.

Jigsaws Fridays from 2.30pm. No need to book, just drop-in.

Knitting Natters Meets every Thursday, at 11.30am. No need to book, just drop-in.

Glenburn Library

Book Group 1 Last Thursday of every month, 11.30am. No need to book, just drop-in. Next meetings: 25th September and 30th October 2025.

Bookbug Story time, songs and rhymes for pre-school children. Please book in advance at

https://outlook.office365.com/book/GlenburnLibraryBookings@renfrewshirecouncilgov.onmicrosoft.com/?ismsaljsauthenabled=true

Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.45am - 10.15am. Please note, bookings become available 7 days before the sessions take place.

Glenburn Book Club Meets fortnightly on Tuesday at 6.30pm. Next meetings: 23rd September, 7th and 21st October 2025...

Knit and Crochet Group for adults Bring your own project or start something new. Suitable for all skill levels. Meeting weekly on Wednesdays 3pm - 4pm. Limited spaces, please contact Glenburn Library to book your place.

LEGO Club Every Tuesday, 6pm-7.15pm. Limited spaces, please contact Glenburn Library to book your place.

Saturday Knitters for Adults Get crafty on the weekends with like-minded people!

Refreshments provided. Weekly on Saturdays at 3pm.

Upcycling and craft sessions for adults Learn how to make a woven item using fabric and yarn scraps. Tuesdays 3pm - 4.30pm. All materials provided, however you are welcome to bring your own fabric/yarn scraps if you need to destash! Limited spaces, please contact Glenburn Library to book your place.

Young People's Crochet Club Calling 11-15 year olds! Learn the basics of crochet, end the school week on a relaxing note, have fun and explore your creativity. Fridays, 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please note: sign-ups can only be made by an adult parent or guardian; a full consent form will be required.

Paisley Central Library

Bookbug Story time, songs and rhymes for pre-school children. Please book in advance at

https://renfrewshireboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173661862

If you need assistance to book, please phone - 0300 300 1210. Every Monday and Friday 10.15am-10.45am. Please note, bookings become available 7 days before the sessions take place.

Bookworms Book Group (Suitable for adults) Meets on Tuesdays, every 4 weeks, 2pm - 3pm. Next meeting dates: 21st October and 18th November 2025. New members welcome!

Digital Skills Drop-In Do you need some help with your iPad, tablet, smart phone or need to use one of our Public Access PCs? Come along to our digital drop in and a Digital Champion will be on hand to help, no need to book, just come along! Thursdays, 2pm - 4pm. No need to book, just drop-in.

Job Club Are you a parent living in Renfrewshire? Invest in Renfrewshire are holding drop-in sessions to support parents who are unemployed or are looking for a better paid job. Pop in for support from Gemma to discuss your employment, education, and training options. Every second Tuesday, 9.30am - 11.30am. Next sessions: 7th and 21st October 2025.

Employability & Learning and Development

Parental Employability Support Parents who are unemployed or working parents on benefits looking to get better paid jobs can access our specialist advice and support. Support from a dedicated adviser tailored to your own needs Advice to maximise your household income Access to training and support to develop your skills Opportunities with local employers with Family Friendly working hours **Better Off in Work Calculation** First 3 months travel Help with Childcare Costs Sector Specific Training Financial support when starting work If you would like more information on our Parental mployability Support Services please cal 0300 300 1180 or email invest@renfrewshire.gov.uk no one LEVELLING

Boost your skills and career, employability & learning opportunities in Renfrewshire

Looking to enhance your skills, return to work, or explore new career paths? Renfrewshire offers a wealth of resources to support your journey. Whether you are a school leaver, job seeker, or adult learner, there are programs tailored to help vou succeed.

Renfrewshire Council's Invest in Renfrewshire initiative provides comprehensive support for residents seeking employment or training. Services include:

- CV and Interview Preparation
- Job Search Support
- Tailored Programmes Specialised support for individuals aged 16-24, those with disabilities, care-experienced individuals, and others facing employment barriers.

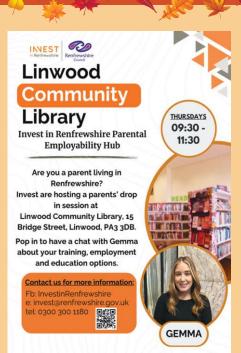
See below for the support in and around your local area who can help you!



INVEST











WELLBEING FOR WORK

OVERCOMING STRESS AND ANXIETY FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS



IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP!

IS YOUR WELLBEING OR MENTAL HEALTH HOLDING YOU BACK FROM GETTING A JOB OR TAKING PART IN TRAINING? WE CAN SUPPORT YOU TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESS! AS PART OF YOUR EMPLOYABILITY JOURNEY WITH INVEST WE CAN OFFER YOU:

- · 1-1 CONSELLING SERVICES
- · ANXIETY MANAGEMENT COURSE
- 1-1 WELLBEING SUPPORT AND ADVICE
- · LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL COURSE

If you would like more information on how we can support you on your employability journey, please call 0300 300 1180 or email invest@renfrewshire.gov.uk or scan the OR code











Adult and Family Learning Services

Renfrewshire Council offers free adult education courses to help residents develop essential skills:

- Literacy and numeracy to improve reading, writing, and math skills.
- Digital skills to learn to navigate the internet, use email, and access online services.
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) these courses are for non-native English speakers.
- Personal development to build confidence, set goals, and enhance well-being.

Classes are held at various community learning centres across Renfrewshire. For details, contact the Adult and Family Learning Service at **0141 487 0160** or email

adult.learning@renfrewshire.gov.uk

More details can be found at

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3576/Adult-learning



It's Soup Season here are three cosy recipes to warm you up this Autumn

As the leaves turn and the nights draw in, there's nothing better than a bowl of homemade soup to bring comfort and warmth to your home. Whether you're cooking for one or feeding a family, these easy autumn recipes are full of flavour, goodness, and seasonal cheer.

We've picked three favourites that are simple to make, budgetfriendly, and perfect for sharing. Why not try one this weekend and let us know your favourite?

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup

A silky, comforting classic with a hint of spice.

You'll need: Butternut squash, carrots, celery, onion, garlic, fresh herbs, cayenne pepper, vegetable stock.

How to make it: Roast your veggies with herbs and olive oil until golden. Blend with stock until smooth, then simmer gently. Add a swirl of cream or a sprinkle of fresh herbs to serve.

Perfect with crusty bread or cheese toasties!

Sweet Potato & Ginger Soup

Zesty, bold, and full of autumn flavour.

You'll need: Sweet potato, pumpkin, shallots, garlic, fresh ginger, coconut milk, lime, vegetable stock.

How to make it: Sauté your aromatics, add chopped veg, and simmer with coconut milk and stock. Blend until smooth and finish with lime zest and toasted pumpkin seeds.

Vegan, warming, and great for batch cooking!

Leafy Greens & Chickpea Soup

Nutritious, light, and packed with flavour.

You'll need: Chickpeas, onion, garlic, leek, mixed greens (kale, spinach, chard), broccoli, vegetable stock, lemon juice.

How to make it: Roast chickpeas with paprika for crunch. Simmer greens and vegetables in stock, blend half for creaminess, and stir in spinach to wilt. Top with lemon juice and crispy chickpeas.

A great immune booster for the colder months!

Share Your Soup! Do you have a favourite soup recipe? We would love to feature it in our next newsletter. Send it to

admin@paisleyha.org.uk and help spread the warmth!



Monthly Board Game Evening Sessions Skirlies Cafe • Paisley

Join us for an evening of playing board games along with tea, coffee, cold drinks, cake.

Don't worry if you don't have any board games of your own as we always bring a selection with us and will teach you how to play them too.

Location: Skirlies Café Paisley • 4 Broomlands Street • Paisley PA1 2LR

Check availability @

FREE

Kid's (orner



Sock Puppets

Turn odd socks into silly characters! Add buttons, felt, or wool. No sewing needed – just glue or safety pins Great for storytelling and playtime!



Leaf Art & Nature Collages

Collect leaves, twigs, or petals on a walk. Press and glue onto paper. Create autumn scenes or funny faces. Lovely for windows or fridge art.



Jar Lanterns

Reuse old jars to make glowing decorations. Wrap with tissue paper and glue. Add a battery tea light. Use warm colours like orange and gold.



Rainy Day Scrapbook

Make a memory book with photos, drawings, or recipes. Add captions and stories. Great for kids, families, or solo reflection.

Spot the differences





Can you spot the 10 differences between the 2 Halloween pictures? Circle them on the top picture to prove it!

Craft ideas for rainy days

Cosy, Creative Fun for All Ages



Costume Corner

Start planning for Halloween!
Use cardboard, old clothes,
and face paint.Create characters and host a
mini fashion show! Fun for all ages.



Share Your Creations!

We'd love to feature your crafts in our next newsletter!



Send a photo or short description to admin@paisleyha.org.uk

Deadline: 1st November 2025

Autumn Puzzle Fun!

Can you find all the hidden Autumn words? Look closely at the puzzle below and see if you can spot these seasonal favorites:
LEAVES • RAIN • PUMPKIN • SOCKS • LANTERN •
CRAFT • TWIG • COZY • JAR • COSTUME



Tip: Try circling the words as you find them – up, down, across, or even diagonally – they may even be backwards! Want to make it extra fun? Time yourself and challenge a friend to beat your score. Or draw your favourite autumn item from the list once you've found them all!



Help, Support & in Renfrewshire and Scotland

Everyone needs a bit of support now and again, whether it is help with money worries, mental health, housing, or just finding someone to talk to. Below is a list of trusted organisations offering free, confidential help in Renfrewshire and across Scotland.

Local Services in Renfrewshire

Advice Works (Renfrewshire Council)

Free, confidential advice on benefits, budgeting, and debt.

- **©** 0300 300 1238
- www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/ adviceworks

The STAR Project

Community support and wellbeing services including mental health support and peer-led activities.

- **©** 0141 889 5850
- www.star-project.org.uk

Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Help with housing, legal issues, energy bills, employment, benefits, and more.

- **©** 0141 889 2121

RAMH

(Recovery Across Mental Health)

Support for individuals with mental health needs in Renfrewshire.

- **©** 0141 847 8900
- www.ramh.org

Renfrewshire Foodbank

Emergency food support with local referral partners.

- **©** 0300 102 2500
- www.renfrewshire.foodbank.org.uk

Women's Aid Renfrewshire

Support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

- **©** 0141 561 7030
- www.renfrewshirewomansaid.co.uk

Homeless – Renfrewshire Council

- © 0300 300 1203
- www.Housingadvice.hps@ renfrewshire.gov.uk

ROAR - Older Adults Suffering Isolation

- **©** 0141 889 7481

Renfrewshire Alcohol & Drugs Services (RADAR)

Offers one-to-one support, detox and rehabilitation referrals, substitute prescribing, and harm reduction.

- **©** 0300 300 1199
- www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/RADAR

Renfrewshire Family Support Group

Support for families and carers affected by a loved one's substance use.

- **©** 0141 887 9142
- www.sfad.org.uk/fsg/ renfrewshire-family-support

Wider Support

Money Talk Team (Advice on Benefits & Budgeting)

National support line to help maximise your income.

- **©** 0800 028 1456
- www.moneytalkteam.org.uk

Shelter Scotland (Housing & Homelessness)

Help if you're struggling with housing, facing eviction, or need emergency accommodation.

- **©** 0808 800 4444
- **⋈** www.shelterscotland.org

Samaritans (Emotional Support)

Free 24/7 confidential emotional support line.

- **©** 116 123
- www.samaritans.org

Breathing Space(Mental Health Support)

A phone line for people feeling low, anxious, or overwhelmed.

- © 0800 83 85 87
- www.breathingspace.scot

Need help accessing these services?

If you are not sure who to contact, or need help making a call, we can help connect you. Please speak to a member of our Housing Team at Paisley Housing Association **0141 889 7105**.

FORC - 5-0 Recovery Café

Do you have experience of a drug / alcohol dependency?

Are you at a 'FORC' in the road?

Come and join us at Renfrew's very own Recovery Café!

Fridays 10am - 3pm 3 Dunlop Street (YMCA building), Renfrew, PA4 8PG

Goodbye Misery! Hello Happiness!!

Crafts; groupwork; relaxation; rolls and sausage; quizzes and more



hope@nehemiah.org.uk

0774 860 5854

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR GAMBLING OR

THE GAMBLING OF A LOVED ONE?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

FOR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. ADVICE AND SUPPORT CONTACT RCA TRUST:



0141 887 0880



INFO@RCATRUST.ORG.UK



SUPPORTING RECOVERY

8 INCLE STREET. PAISLEY, PA1 1HP

ACROSS SCOTLAND





Helpline and **Live Chat**

It's not just single parents who get in touch. If you can't find the information you are looking for on our website or just prefer to talk to us, you can:

- Call our Helpline on 0808 801 0323
- Chat to one of our advisers on live webchat.



Calls are free of charge from any

UK landline or mobile. We can provide interpreters for single parents in up to 250 languages.

You can chat through the webchat @ https://opfs.org.uk/talk-to-us/loneparent-helpline/



Free Trauma-Informed **Parenting Workshops**

Our Trauma-Informed Parenting (TIP) workshops are open to anyone living or working with children.

Participants often include parents, carers, adopters, kinship carers, family support workers, social workers, teachers, and other professionals who support children and young people.

Visit our website to view available workshop dates and book your place today - www.traumainformedparenting.uk

Capture Autumn's Magic — Photography Competition!

As the autumn nights draw in and the golden light casts its glow over Paisley, why not take a moment to capture the season's beauty through your lens?

Whether it's a crisp morning walk, or with colourful leaves in your garden, we're inviting tenants and owners of all ages to share their best photographs that celebrate the spirit of the season.

What's in it for you?

- £25 prize for the winning photo
- Your image featured as the cover of our upcoming Winter Newsletter Edition
- A chance to showcase your creativity and brighten our community pages!

How to Enter

Send your photo to us by 1st November 2025 using one of the following options:

- Email: admin@paisleyha.org.uk
- Drop-off: Printed entries welcome at our office reception

Please include your name, address, and a short caption or title for your photo. All entries will be reviewed with care, and we'll announce the winner in our winter edition, so keep an eye out!

Tips for a Great Shot

- Think seasonal: autumn colours, cosy scenes, or local landscapes
- Make sure your photo is clear and well-lit
- Be creative, your unique perspective is what we're looking for!

We can't wait to see Paisley through your eyes.

Let's celebrate the season together – one snapshot at a time.

Stay Connected

Don't miss out! follow us online for the latest updates and opportunities to get involved @ www.paisleyha.org.uk. Together, let's continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community.













#makeastand

cih.org/makeastand



Our homes, our people, our problem.

We've signed the
Make a Stand pledge to
support people experiencing
domestic abuse, have you?

women's aid







Paisley Housing Association Assurance House 2 Lawn Street Paisley PA1 1HA

Contact Details

Email: admin@paisleyha.org.uk

Tel: **0141 889 7105**

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https://www.facebook.com/paisleyha/

Opening Hours

Our staff work flexibly from our office and from home.

Our office opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm (reception closes at 4pm)

Friday: 9 am to 4 pm

