

Keep the Uplift.

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire urges the government against “devastating” Universal Credit cut.

Your local Citizens Advice says

- 58% of people seeking its advice on benefits have never needed its support before.
- The number of people claiming Universal Credit in South Lincolnshire has risen 93% since the pandemic began.

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire is warning of the “devastating impact” of a scheduled cut to Universal Credit in April.

Staff and volunteers have helped 2,498 people with Universal Credit since March last year. Around 58% of people seeking its advice on benefits have never contacted the charity before.

Advisers say many needing support from the benefits system have lost their job or suffered a drop in income as a result of the pandemic.

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire, which has continued to provide one-to-one support throughout the pandemic, warns that local families could be pushed into further hardship if the £20 a week Universal Credit uplift ends as planned in April.

In South Lincolnshire, the number of people claiming Universal Credit has risen 93%% since the pandemic started.

The loss of £20 a week is equivalent to over 2 days of food and almost 6 days of energy costs.

Simon Richards, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire, said: “We support people every day whose lives have been turned upside down by this pandemic. For many of them, Universal Credit is the lifeline that has helped pay the bills and put food on the table. But households across the region now face the devastating prospect of a £20 a week cut to their benefits in just a few short months. With a tough outlook in the jobs market, we’re urging the government to continue doing the right thing and maintain the Universal Credit uplift.”

For more information, visit citizensadvice.org.uk or contact 0800 144 8 444.

We give people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.