

A young woman with long, dark hair and glasses is shown in a grocery store. She is wearing a brown leather jacket and a colorful, patterned scarf. She is looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile, while holding a white smartphone in her hands. She is standing behind a shopping cart filled with fresh produce, including green leafy vegetables and a pineapple. The background is a blurred grocery store aisle with shelves of products.

EATING WELL ON A BUDGET

Today, many of us are living on a budget and looking for ways to reduce food expenses.

Eating a healthy diet is crucial to your mental and emotional health as well as your physical wellbeing. It can make a huge difference to your

mood, energy, waistline, and how you think and feel.

At a time when so many of us are living on a tight budget, finding food that is both wholesome and affordable can be a challenge.

Along with a lack of time, having a limited budget is one the major barriers to eating a healthy diet. When you're hungry and pushed for time and money, processed and fast food can seem like the best options. While convenience foods are often tasty and filling, they also tend to be loaded with calories, sugar, and preservatives, and lacking in essential nutrients. And despite what you may have been led to believe, eating processed and fast food is rarely cheaper than eating healthy, home-cooked meals

Whether you're at school, living on your own, or raising a family on a budget, with these useful tips you can enjoy healthy food without breaking the bank. The more you focus on purchasing local, unprocessed food, preparing meals at home, and reducing waste, the healthier and tastier your diet will be, the better you'll feel, and the more money you'll save.

We've put together a list of tips and advice to help your money go further while still enjoying tasty, nutritious meals that the whole family can enjoy.

FREE Help & Support

If you'd like 1-2-1 support to get more active, quit smoking, lose weight or reduce your alcohol consumption, our Healthy Lifestyle coaches are here to help you for **FREE**. Get in touch today to find out more about the services we offer.

www.hlsc Coventry.org
0800 122 3780



Top tips for eating well on a budget

Planning is key

Our handy food planner helps to plan your meals and snacks for the week. Use your plan to write a shopping list which will help you avoid impulse buying and keep you focused on the items you really need. Research has shown that shoppers who stick to a list are likely to save an average of £11 per shop!

Check what food you already have

Basing your meals around items you already have in your cupboards is an easy way to save on your shopping. Make a note of the dried, tinned and frozen food as well as the sauces and spices you have and find a recipe that will use them up.

Keeping your cupboards tidy so you can quickly see what you have will make this process much easier.

Batch cooking

Batch cooking is a great way to make sure that when you're hungry and pushed for time, you'll have a healthy, balanced meal, ready to eat in your fridge or freezer. This will stop you reaching for more expensive and often less nutritious convenience food or takeaways. Buying ingredients in larger quantities will also bring down the cost of each portion and save you money in the long run.

Try out supermarket own brands

Most of us have our go-to brands for certain items that we're convinced taste better than the cheaper alternatives on offer. Being loyal to these brands could however be hiking your outgoings up by £100s a year. In a recent study, consumer group Which? found that consumers could save £70 a year on baked beans alone, when switching from branded to the supermarket's own version. Make the switch to own brand and see how much you can save.

Avoid shopping on an empty stomach

Research has shown that if you go food shopping when you're hungry, you're likely to spend more money on items you don't necessarily need. Try to plan your shopping trips for just after you've eaten and you should find it easier to stick to your list and avoid temptations.

Buy in bulk

Buying in bulk is a great tip when you see offers for items that are non-perishable. For example, if you saw kidney beans on offer, and this is something you eat regularly, it is worth buying these in bulk. Just be sure to check what you have in your cupboards before you write your shopping list, otherwise you will still buy kidney beans when you already have them.



For Inspiration
on meal ideas, check out;
RECIPES & FOOD – COOKING ON A BOOTSTRAP & MIGUEL BARCLAY

Top tips for eating well on a budget

Fakeaways

The average consumer in the UK spends £451 a year on takeaways. Living a healthy balanced lifestyle isn't about depriving yourself and we all need a treat every now and then. Why not try recreating your favourite Friday night takeaway at home for a fraction of the cost and calories. Take a look here for some inspiration:

The best fakeaway recipes | BBC Good Food

Reduce your meat intake

For many people, meat accounts for a big proportion of their weekly spend on food. To cut down on this spend, try switching out meat for an alternative protein source for a couple of days a week. For example, switch beef mince in a chill con carne for mixed beans or bulk out a veggie curry with chickpeas and sweet potato. There are also various health benefits associated with eating less meat, such as lowering your risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Meal Planner

Get organized and save on your shop with our handy meal planner.

SHOPPING LIST

Sunday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Monday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Tuesday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Wednesday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Thursday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Friday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

Saturday	
BREAKFAST	
LUNCH	
DINNER	

SNACKS FOR THE WEEK

Download and print more copies on our website www.hiscoventry.org or ask a member of the HLS team.

Extra Support Locally

If you're struggling to manage financially and need some support, there are lots of local and national organisations you can reach out to.

Coventry Citizens Advice Money Advice Service

Offers support for a range of financial issues:

- Talk to you about your money problems;
- Help you to prioritise your debts;
- Attempt to reduce your debt;
- Help you with budgeting;
- Make sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to.

Drop in Monday – Friday,
9.30am – 1pm.

Kirby House, Little Park Street, Coventry,
West Midlands CV1 2JZ

Call: **03444 111 444**

Coventry Foodbanks

Providing emergency food for people in need across Coventry.

Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

Coventry Homelessness Prevention Team

Contact the City Council;

Call: **024 7683 4025**

(Out of hours **024 7683 2222**)

Coventry Citizens Advice – Power Up Fuel/Energy Service

The Power Up project aims to help people living in the Western Power Distribution region out of fuel poverty by offering energy advice, help with managing fuel debt, energy saving and ways to reducing energy bills by switching suppliers or finding a better tariff.

Family Hubs Coventry

A family hub is a place where children, young people and their families can go when in need of help and support. The people working in the family hub will work in partnership with you and your community. They will help you find and get help from different services in the area and will be able to give you information, advice and support. E.g. Support with managing finances and getting back into work or training.

Coventry Law Centre

Provides specialist legal advice in: housing, welfare benefits, debt, immigration and asylum, employment, community care, discrimination, family, public law. They employ solicitors and paralegals so they can represent you in court or in tribunal if you are on a low income – and their service is **FREE** to anyone living or working in Coventry.

Coventry Independent Advice Service

This service is confidential and their skilled advisors can help you with things like:

- Identifying entitlement to benefits and helping you make claims;
- Helping you to sort out debt or other money problems;
- Challenging decisions on benefit claims;
- Giving basic advice and information about housing and other issues;
- Helping you find other kinds of support.

Fill in their online enquiry form;

Coventry Independent Advice Service
(covadvice.org.uk)

or call: **024 7652 1101**

Coventry & Warwickshire Age UK

Their advisors offer **FREE** information and advice on a wide range of issues including Benefits and Entitlements.

Extra Support Nationally

Turn2us

A national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially.

www.turn2us.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 802 2000

Money Helper

Offers **FREE** independent support in clearing debts, reducing spending, or making the most of your income.

www.moneyhelper.org.uk

Call: 0800 138 7777

Help Through Hardship Helpline

Helpline: 0808 2082138

If you are in financial crisis and live in England or Wales, call their **FREE** national helpline, Help through Hardship.

Call: 0808 2082138 for **FREE** (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, closed on public holidays) to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They can help address your crises and provide support to maximise your income, help you navigate the benefits system, and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. If needed, they'll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

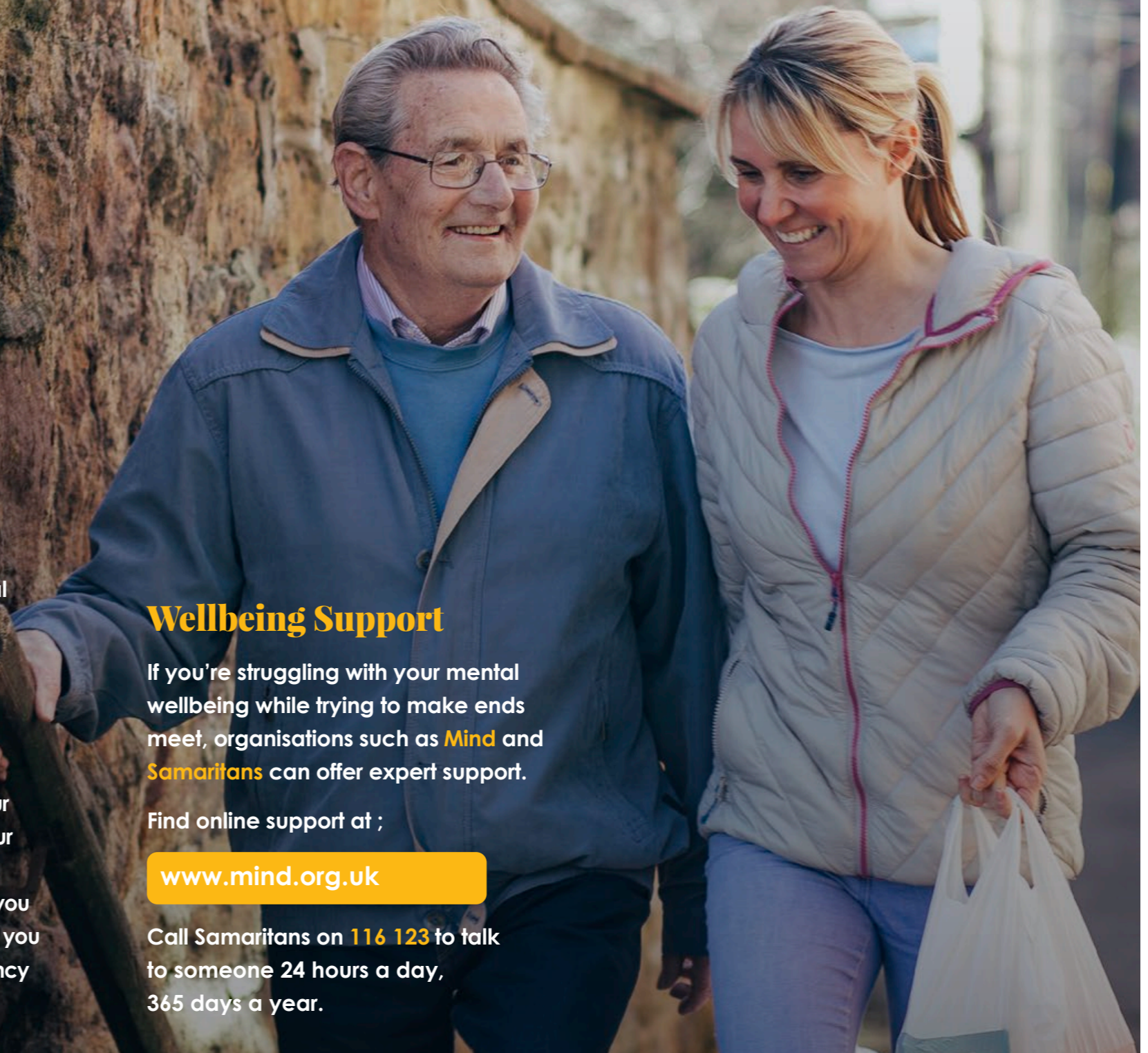
Wellbeing Support

If you're struggling with your mental wellbeing while trying to make ends meet, organisations such as **Mind** and **Samaritans** can offer expert support.

Find online support at ;

www.mind.org.uk

Call Samaritans on 116 123 to talk to someone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.





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