

A Guide to Basic Bank Accounts

Basic bank accounts are available to everyone from most banks. Getting a bank account is easy and makes managing your finances easy too. Since October 2000 the Government has stated that banks need to make a basic bank account available to everyone, including those with poor credit records.

If you are unsure as to the next step then you can pop into our welfare benefits office and they will be able to offer you further advice.

They are open **Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm** for drop in sessions or you can book an appointment by ringing **01772 906838**

Overleaf is a guide to the different accounts offered by a small selection of banks in Preston along with their identification requirements.

Please note that this leaflet is only a guide to what basic bank accounts are currently available. For more detailed advice and information then please contact each bank direct.

Why open a bank account?

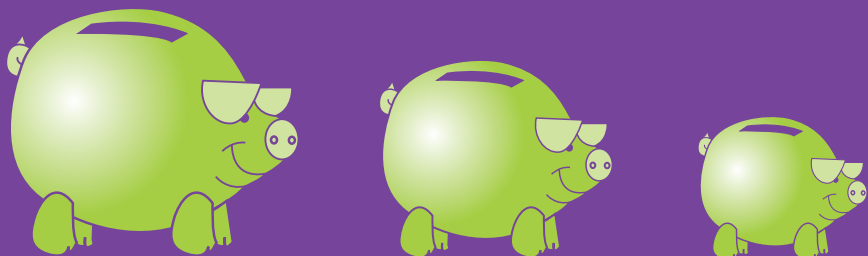
- Under Local Housing Allowance rules, payments of housing benefit will no longer be made to the landlord in the majority of cases
- Budgeting is made easier as paying bills by direct debit spreads payments out on a monthly basis
- Cashing personal cheques can cost you money without a bank account
- It helps build up a banking history

What services do basic bank accounts offer?

- Free automated transactions (direct debits, standing orders)
- A cash card for using in cash machines
- Phone banking

How to open a bank account

- Banks must be contacted direct in order to open a bank account
- Some accounts can be opened there and then in the branch (Natwest, HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland)
- Some banks require a postal application which can take longer (Halifax, Alliance and Leicester)
- All banks require proof of identity and residency as part of the application process



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Name of Bank	Name of Account	Standing Order	Cheque Book	Cash Card	Debit Card	Over Draft	Post Office Access
HSBC 40 Fishergate Preston PR1 2AD 0800 130 130	Basic bank account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
NatWest 35 Fishergate Preston PR1 2AD 0800 200 400	Step Account	Yes	No	Yes	Restricted use	No	Yes
Royal Bank of Scotland 97 Fishergate Preston PR1 2DP 01772 257811	Key Account	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Lloyds TSB 94 Fishergate Preston PR1 2JB 0845 3000 000	Cash Account	Yes	No	Yes	Restricted use	No	Yes

When applying for a bank account you will need to provide proof of identity and proof of your address. Examples of evidence that are acceptable by banks include:

Proof of Identity

- Passport
- UK / EEA photo driving license
- EU / EEA National Identity card
- Benefit or pension notification letter
- Disabled drivers pass

Proof of Address

- Utility bill (such as gas, water, electricity)
- Current year council tax bill
- Benefit or pension notification letter
- A recent telephone bill

Please note that acceptable forms of identification vary significantly between different banks so please contact each bank directly to obtain a full list of acceptable evidence.

As an alternative you may be interested in joining the Inner Preston Credit Union. For more information you can pick up a leaflet from the Town Hall.