

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund October 2022 to March 2023
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member note the spend undertaken by the Director of Children's Services for funding to the value of £1,570,718 provided as discretionary grants to schools, colleges and early years settings such that they can provide food and fuel support to vulnerable families.
- 1.2. It is recommended that £263,000 is made available to provide £500 to each Hampshire County Council Foster Carer to support them with increasing cost of living.
- 1.3. It is recommended that £500,500 is provided in grants to district and borough councils in Hampshire for exceptional housing support which meets the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
- 1.4. It is recommended that a further £1,832,785 is allocated to district and borough councils in Hampshire such that they can provide vouchers to residents in receipt of council tax support and to an additional cohort who receive housing benefits only.
- 1.5. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves £350,000 to be allocated as grants to organisations supporting unpaid carers in Hampshire. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 18.
- 1.6. It is recommended that £78,100 is made available to provide care leavers two £50 food vouchers over the grant period to support with the increased cost of living.
- 1.7. It is recommended the Executive Lead Member approves the grant of £500,000 to provide two £50 food vouchers with families open to the Disabled Children's Team and the remaining amount in grants to organisations working

children and adults with disabilities for further direct support. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18.

- 1.8. It is recommended that a grant of £600,000 is awarded to the Citizens Advice Service to provide emergency financial support to vulnerable households with fuel bills. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18.
- 1.9. It is recommended that funding of up to £530,000 is provided in grants to support existing community pantries across Hampshire with the increase in cost of food and to organisations seeking to further develop a broader offer alongside the pantries as described in further in detail in paragraph 43. Such grant will be provided on terms agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 18.
- 1.10. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve community grants to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant for targeted financial support for those in need, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £500,000.
- 1.11. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in paragraphs 4 -12 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

## **2. Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach for allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension across Hampshire for the period October 2022 to March 2023. This report seeks approval from the Executive Lead Member for spend and grant funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.
- 2.2. The expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need particularly those not eligible for the other support government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.

## **3. Other options considered and rejected: None**

## **4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None
- 5. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:** Not Applicable
- 6. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:** Not Applicable
- 7. **Statement from the decision maker:** Not Applicable

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Councillor Roz Chadd**  
**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services**

**22 November 2022**