

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	11 May 2023
Title:	Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund April 2023 to March 2024
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That a discretionary grant of £2, 845,622 be available for schools, colleges and early years settings such that the funding would be available to support families during each term.
- 1.2. It is recommended that £8,600 is allocated to enable two £100 food vouchers to be distributed to 43 families open to children's social care teams whose children are educated other than at school to contribute to the cost of living pressures.
- 1.3. It is recommended that £242,000 is ringfenced to award a £500 food voucher to Hampshire Foster Carers with a placement to contribute to the increase in cost of living, and that £70,000 to be awarded in respect of a £500 food voucher for 140 families where there is a Looked After Child placed at home.
- 1.4. It is recommended that a £500 food voucher is awarded to 946 eligible Special Guardianship Order or connected carers currently receiving financial support, at a total cost of £473,000.
- 1.5. It is recommended that £24,000 is distributed to children's social care district-based teams across Hampshire, so that financial assistance can be given at their discretion.
- 1.6. It is recommended that grants to a total value of £3,441,870 are distributed to District and Borough Councils across Hampshire, such that they can provide one £50 food voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £80 to households in receipt of housing benefit only.
- 1.7. It is recommended that £112,400 is ringfenced to provide two £100 food vouchers to families open to the Disabled Children's Team and £460,000 to provide direct fuel support to adults open to social care not in residential

accommodation, those that do not have any care and vulnerable adults who present in crisis at the front door to Adult and Health Care services.

- 1.8. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with organisations that support unpaid carers in Hampshire up to the value of £361,000, including £11,000 of administrative costs during the year, and in accordance with the grant guidance.
- 1.9. It is recommended that £177,400 is awarded for individuals open to our Care Leavers teams to receive four £50 food vouchers across the year to contribute to the increased cost of living.
- 1.10. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with organisations that support unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-18 and the resettlement of families in Hampshire to distribute food vouchers up to the value of £21,500 during the year and in accordance with the grant guidance.
- 1.11. It is recommended that a grant of £880,500 is made available to Citizens Advice to support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs during the year, supporting 5,000 households.
- 1.12. It is recommended that up to £200,000 be ringfenced to deliver advice services on budgeting, finances, maximising income as well as accessing other help with food or fuel. Council officers will work with local communities to identify those organisations best placed to deliver such advice services, which may include Citizens Advice and community-based organisations. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with such organisations and grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria.
- 1.13. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve grant awards to organisations for the delivery of community pantry network schemes up to the value of £800,000 throughout the financial year.
- 1.14. It is recommended that £1,001,000 is distributed to District and Borough councils to support households with exceptional housing costs during the financial year as identified in the DWP grant guidance.
- 1.15. It is recommended that £500,000 is made available for organisations who wish to support residents county-wide and a further £800,000 for locally based organisations who wish to support residents with food and fuel poverty and wish to apply for a community grant. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria.

- 1.16. It is recommended that approval is given to award grants to deliver county-wide support with food and fuel related initiatives as follows:
- Hampshire Library Service £64,000 to provide essentials linked to climate change sessions such as draft excluders, cooking on a budget items, hot and cold refreshments at support groups; to work with partners to provide food and fuel related advice on library premises; to provide drop in sessions for free school meal eligible families, and supporting those out of work.
 - £440,000 to the Environment Centre for providing direct guidance and support to households of any tenure on a range of energy-related topics, which would be delivered through a mix of remote help as well as face to face appointments, depending on need; and to provide capital grants to 150 households.
 - £240,000 grant is awarded to Adult Health and Care to expand the community wellbeing service, anticipated to support 880-1,320 older adults during the year.
- 1.17. 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 3 -18 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 April 2023 to March 2024. 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:

Councillor Edward Heron
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

11 May 2023