

**REPORT OF THE**  
**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services**  
**PART II**

**1. Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund April 2023 to March 2024**

- 1.1. At their decision day on 11 May 2023, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services agreed the allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension for April 2023 to March 2024. This decision provided funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.
- 1.2. The DWP 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 made available. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households 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. The Hampshire offer has initiatives in place to support these target cohorts.
- 1.3. The decision record associated with this decision sets out the detail of the allocation of funds for the DWP Household Support Fund. A key aim for the connect4communities programme was to continue support for sustainable and environmentally beneficial food poverty initiatives. In addition to direct energy support, this enables further support with increased energy costs by freeing up household income to be allocated to utility bills.

Further details can be found at the link(s) below:

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services - 11 May 2023 Decision Day](#)

**COUNCILLOR EDWARD HERON**  
**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services**