

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

1. COVID WINTER GRANTS

- 1.1. On 30 November 2020, 9 December 2020 and 2 February 2021, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People approved a number of decisions in relation to Covid Winter Grants.
- 1.2. On Sunday 8 November 2020, the government announced a significant package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. The £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme would be distributed through County and Unitary Councils and aims to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs. The government expects top tier local authorities to administer the scheme and provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic, and to include families whose children are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as well as those who qualify by age for the universal free school meal offer.
- 1.3. Hampshire's share of the COVID Winter Grant is £2.898 million, to be spent between December 2020 and 31 March 2021. Following notification of funding, engagement with major stakeholder groups resulted in a multi-faceted offer across Hampshire, under the programme name of 'Connect4Communities'. The Executive Lead Member has approved funding for a variety of initiatives under the Connect4Communities programme, providing direct financial support to vulnerable households this winter, which have included:
 - Distribution of funding to schools, colleges and childcare providers to provide food vouchers to eligible children for the December and February school holidays.
 - Discretionary grants for schools and colleges to support families experiencing financial difficulty.
 - Funding to provide food and fuel vouchers to care leavers.
 - A grant to the Hampshire Young Carers Alliance to support young carers.
 - Funding to provide food vouchers to frontline agencies working with families including domestic abuse organisations, health visitors and social work teams.
 - A grant to Citizens Advice to provide fuel support to vulnerable households.
 - Funding to enable the establishment of a community pantry in each district of Hampshire.

- A community grant fund available to organisations working with local communities.

Further details can be found at the links below:

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People Decision Day – 30 November 2020](#)

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People Decision Day – 9 December 2020](#)

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People Decision Day – 2 February 2021](#)

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA STALLARD
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People