

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	7 July 2021
Title:	COVID Local Support Grants: June – September 2021
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the grant of £1,900,320 funding to schools for them to purchase and provide one £60 food voucher per child for the summer holiday period, in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 12 of the report. Vouchers will be available for all children eligible for free school meals and additionally all children with a social worker, all children open to early help.
- 1.2 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the grant of £424,500 funding to early years and post 16 education establishments for them to purchase and provide one £75 food voucher per child for the summer holiday period, in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 12 of the report. Vouchers will be available for all 16-18 year olds previously eligible for FSM and all 2-4 year olds accessing childcare and eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium.
- 1.3 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the purchase of one £75 food or fuel voucher for each care leaver not forming part of the extended FSM cohort identified in paragraph 15 of the report, to the total value of up to £5,250.
- 1.4 That a grant of up to £8,000 to be made to the Hampshire Young Carers Alliance such that vouchers and/or gifts and/or food can be provided to young carers not in receipt of vouchers through the free school meal voucher offer. 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 12 of the report.
- 1.5 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve community grant

awards to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant (as set out in paragraph 12 of the report) for targeted financial support for those in need in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £200,000.

- 1.6 That a grant of £112,000 is made available to Citizens Advice for them to use to financially support households with fuel bills over the summer period. 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 12 of the report.
- 1.7 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any COVID Local Support Grants remaining or underspent funds to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 12 of the report in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 On 21 June 2021, the Government announced an extension to the COVID grant support for vulnerable families. A further £160 million of support has been made available to local authorities to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs.
- 2.2 This funding builds on the previous Covid Winter Grant administered by the Department for Work and Pension, and Hampshire County Council's funding under this grant totals £2,728,189.85, to be spent by 30 September 2021.
- 2.3 The conditions of the COVID Local Support Grant are the same as those that applied to the Covid Winter grant, i.e.:
 - at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding allocated for other types of households, including individuals.
 - at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% made available for other essential items.
- 2.4 Allocation of funding is therefore proposed to replicate some of the initiatives previously funded by the Covid Winter Grant. This approach will allow rapid distribution of funding to those can make best use of it,

supported by evidence of successful outcomes between December 2020 and June 2021.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Hampshire County Council could have delegated all funding to schools and/or district councils to administer locally. This option was rejected as these organisations are already administering other schemes and by working across the County with a range of partners, it was felt that an offer complementary to other schemes could be delivered, with the aim of reaching more vulnerable households.

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: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:

- 6.1 It was impracticable to give the required 28 days' notice of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services intention to take this key decision due to the timing of the Central Government announcement on the extension of Covid grant support, and the expectation from Government that delivery against the grant commences as soon as possible.

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

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

7 July 2021