

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	17 May 2022
<b>Title:</b>	DWP Household Support Fund April – September 2022
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### 1. The decision:

2. That funding of up to £575,000 is provided in grants to expand existing community pantry provision and to organisations seeking to further develop a broader offer alongside the pantries to include health services, employment support and other services funded by means other than the DWP Household Support Fund extension. Community pantries will ensure a sustainable source of support for food poverty is in place beyond the period of the grant. 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 16 of the report.
3. That a grant of £810,000 is made available 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 set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
4. 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 (as set out in paragraph 16 of the report) for targeted financial support for those in need, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £300,000.
5. That a total of £500,500 is allocated to district and borough councils in Hampshire for exceptional housing support which meets the DWP grant criteria described in paragraph 31 of the report. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the DWP grant criteria set out in paragraphs 16 and 33 of the report.
6. That a further £3,223,920 is allocated to district and borough councils in Hampshire for support to vulnerable pensioners and other households in

accordance with the DWP criteria set out in paragraph 16 of the report.

7. That the Executive Lead Member approves the grant of £752,440 funding to schools, colleges and early years setting for a discretionary grant to support vulnerable households with children in accordance with the grant guidance set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
8. 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 2-8 of the report to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 16 of the report in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

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

- 9.1 In the Spring Statement delivered on the 23 March 2022, the Chancellor announced that the funding for the Household Support Fund will continue to help households with the cost of essentials such as food, clothing and utilities. The DWP will be distributing a further £421m to Local Authorities in England, meaning the total funding has doubled from the original announcement last year.
- 9.2 Hampshire County Council has been granted £7,124,127.25, to be spent by 30 September 2022.
- 9.3 The expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. As per previous grant rounds, it can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs and in exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need. Local authorities will be expected to continue to engage with District Councils and can choose to work with third party organisations including schools, food banks and care organisations.
- 9.4 At least one third of the total funding must be ring fenced to support households with children and at least one third must be ring fenced to support pensioners, with the remaining amount to other households genuinely in need of support.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected**

- 3.1 None. Funding benefits vulnerable households across the County.

**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:**

6.1 Due to the need for funding to be distributed rapidly across a six month period, under the grant conditions and end dates set by the Department for Work and Pensions, an urgent decision is required

**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**

**17 May 2022**