

Haringey Council

COVID Winter Grant Scheme Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out Haringey Council's ('the Council's') approach to supporting people through the additional funding from the Department for Work and Pension's COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

1.2 The COVID Winter Grant Scheme will enable Haringey to provide support to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals from December 2020 and covers the period until the end of March 2021.

1.3 Local authorities are permitted to allocate funding to support vulnerable households within the scope of:

- At least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to 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% on other items

2. Objectives of this Policy

2.1 To provide support to vulnerable households recognising the profile and specific needs of residents in Haringey, in particular those who have been most adversely impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

2.2 To support households and prevent household needs from escalating into crisis.

2.3 To support residents to follow Public Health Guidance, reduce Covid 19 transmission and prevent hospital admission and Covid 19 deaths.

2.4 To support households with dignity and without stigma enabling residents to be as independent as possible and treated with dignity at all times

3. Winter Grant Spend:

3.1 The maximum spend from the Covid Winter Grant is £986,329.83. Outlined below is the maximum allocation for each element of the Covid Winter Grant Spend. These maximum allocations allow for the Assistant Director of Commissioning to delegate funding within the maximum allocations according to emerging need.

All support will be available to households with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in line with government guidance.

- Provision of voucher-based holiday support for households eligible for Free School Meals up to a maximum spend of £750,000

- Support for households of pre-school children including support to increase access to 'Healthy Start Vouchers' for eligible households in the borough up to a maximum spend of £60,000
- Support to NRPF households to a maximum of £30,000 to be provided through local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations
- Support for households experiencing food or fuel insecurity including the provision of short-term vouchers and debt relief up to a maximum spend of £80,000
- Financial support to enable residents to self-isolate up to a maximum spend of £100,000

3.1.1 Free School Meals (FSM) Holiday Vouchers

These will be administered directly by schools. A reciprocal agreement will ensure that children educated out of borough are equally supported.

3.1.2 Support for Pre-School Children

This will include support administered by Children Centres and support to the 'Healthy Start' infrastructure.

3.1.3 Support to NRPF households through VCS organisations

Funding to support residents with NRPF, engaged with VCS organisations, in line with the aims of the Covid Winter Grant including provision of winter clothing.

3.1.4 Support for Food and Fuel Insecurity

To be administered by Haringey Council in partnership with support organisations. This funding will allow for emergency food and fuel vouchers as well as support with clearing utility debt for those engaged with ongoing support.

3.1.5 Support for Resident's Self-Isolating

To ensure that all residents can self-isolate when instructed and will be able to continue to do so beyond the current date for the end of government funding – 31st January 2021, in line with the Council's Self-Isolation Discretionary Policy.

4. Policy implementation and review

4.1 This Policy will be applied from 21st December 2020 until 31st March 2021.

4.2 In applying the Policy, the Council will have regard to relevant implementation guidance as issued.