

Haringey Council

COVID Additional 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 Additional 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 16th April 2021. This support is in addition to and an extension of the Covid Winter Grant scheme (December 2020)

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 additional spend from the Covid Winter Grant is £342,895. 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 food support for households eligible for Free School Meals up to a maximum spend of £100,000

- Direct support to residents who are NRPF where there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution up to a spend of £75,000
- Support for households experiencing food or fuel insecurity including the provision of short-term vouchers and debt relief up to a maximum spend of £40,000
- Financial support to a cohort of residents directly identified from Council data sets as in food, fuel and water poverty up to a maximum spend of £110,000
- Grants to local organisations supporting good mental health and emotional wellbeing up to a maximum of £10,000 to provide support to residents with emerging mental health concerns exacerbated by financial difficulties
- Grants to local organisations who have provided direct support in line with the aim of the Winter Grant between January -April 2021 up to a spend of £30,000

3.1.1 Free School Meals (FSM) Holiday Provision

Additional funding will support the food element of the borough's easter 'Holiday Activity Fund' which targets food and enrichment support at FSM eligible households. This is in addition to the FSM provision identified in the Winter Grant Scheme (December 2020).

3.1.2 Support to NRPF Residents

Direct financial support to residents with NRPF who are known to Council services for a care need beyond destitution in line with the aims of the Covid Winter Grant including provision of winter clothing. This is in addition to the support offered through VCS providers in the Winter Grant Scheme (December 2020).

3.1.3 Support for Food or Fuel Insecurity

To be administered by Haringey Council in partnership with support organisations. This funding will allow for emergency fuel vouchers as well as support with clearing utility debt for those engaged with ongoing support. This is an extension of the support offered in the Winter Grant Scheme (December 2020).

3.1.4 Direct Targeted Support

Direct financial support to residents identified by Council data sets as in in food, fuel and water poverty. The direct financial support will be offered alongside wider support to maximise financial resilience. This is a new form of support not offered in the Winter Grant Scheme (December 2020.) This allows the Council to proactively support residents in line with the aims of the scheme.

3.1.5 Grants to Local Organisations

Grant support to organisations providing support to residents who need support in line with the aims of the Covid Winter Grant including provision of hot food and winter clothing. This is in addition to the support offered to VCS third party organisations in the Winter Grant Scheme (December 2020.) This third party provision will complement the support offered

directly by the Council and help to ensure that all residents are able to access and benefit from the support provided by the Winter Grant (December 2020) and additional Winter Grant Scheme.

4. Policy implementation and review

4.1 This Policy will be applied from 12th March 2021 until 16th April.

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