

Haringey Council

Household Support Fund Scheme Policy March 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out Haringey Council's ('the Council's') approach to supporting people through use of the additional funding from the Department for Work and Pension's Household Support April 2023 to March 2024.
- 1.2 The government has made funding available to enable local authorities to support households, particularly those including children, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled who would otherwise struggle with energy, food and water bills. The fund can also be used to support households with other essential costs. In administering the scheme local authorities are encouraged to use their discretion on how to identify and support those most in need.
- 1.3 Authorities can deliver the support through a variety of routes including providing vouchers to household, making direct provision of food or goods or through the issue of grants.
- 1.4 This document sets out the first phase of the Council's plan to administer the Fund by describing how the Council will provide support to households with children through the Free School Meals voucher scheme during the Easter 2023 half term holiday.

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 significant rises in living costs and its economic consequences.
- 2.2 To support households and prevent households from escalating into crisis.
- 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. Household Support Fund Spend:

- 3.1 The maximum additional spend from the extension of the Household Support Fund for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 is £4,813,343.44 This initial decision focuses on the provision of Free School Meals for the Easter 2023 half term. A second decision will consider the remainder of the funding later in the year.

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

- 3.2 The spend will provide for food support in the form of vouchers for households eligible for Free School Meals during the Easter 2023 half term holidays up to a maximum spend of £300,000.00

3.1.1 Free School Meals (FSM) Holiday Provision

The Council will administer part of the Fund to families in receipt of Free School Meals through the provision of vouchers during the Easter half-term holiday to households eligible for Free School Meals.

4. Policy implementation and review

4.1 This Policy will be applied 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

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