

Haringey Council

Household Support Fund Scheme Policy October 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 Fund from October 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 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 October 2023 half term holidays and provide emergency support through the Haringey Support Fund from 01st October 2023 to 31st March 2024.

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. Half of the grant, £2,406,672 has already been distributed following an initial decision in May 2023. This decision is about the provision of Free School Meals for the October 2023 half term and the extension of funding for the Haringey Support Fund until 31st March 2024. A third 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 October 2023 Half Term holidays up to a maximum spend of £150,000.

3.3 Additionally, the spend will provide emergency support for white goods and essential living costs through the Haringey Support Fund up to 31st March 2024, up to a maximum spend of £258,000.

4. 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 October half-term holiday to households eligible for Free School Meals.

5. Haringey Support Fund Provision

The Council will administer part of the Fund to support vulnerable residents with basic living needs and the purchase of essential household items, for the period 01st October 2023 to 31st March 2024. Awards will continue to be made in line with the Haringey Support Fund Policy.

6. Policy implementation and review

6.1 This Policy will be applied from 1st October 2023 – 31st March 2024.

6.2 In applying the Policy, the Council will follow the relevant implementation guidance as issued.