

Haringey Council

Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: Phase 2, November 2023

APPENDIX 1

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 second phase of the Council's plan to administer the Fund by describing how the Council will provide support to households in line with agreed spending, up to the total allocation of £4,813,343.44 to cover the period 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.
- 2.3 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 spend from the extension of the Household Support Fund for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 is £4,813,343.44. All funds must be spent by 31st March 2024.
- 3.2. Previous rounds covered six months; this round is a year and reflects that with double the grant.
- 3.3. Despite this round being one year Haringey has administered the fund by allocating the money in half-yearly phases to reflect changes in households in financial stress.
- 3.4. Funds can now be used to provide advisory services that complement the fund's primary purpose, being to provide crisis support to households. Although, this policy does not include any allocation to this.

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

3.6. Several direct one-off payments [from Central Government] have been considered when deciding how to distribute the current round of the household support fund.

3.7. These payments include:

- £900 for those on mean tested benefits paid in three instalments over 23/24 (those only in receipt of housing benefit are not eligible for this payment but we can identify them through LIFT)
- £150 for disabled people
- £300 for pensioners on top of their winter fuel grant.

3.8. Additionally there is also a:

- £200 payment for households not connected to mains gas supply and who use alternative fuels for heating. Payments made from February 2023.
- £400 payment to support those who do not have a domestic electricity meter (i.e. living in a care home or houseboat)

3.9. Previous rounds costing of options assumed 85% uptake of the direct cost of living payments. This round assumes a 90% take-up based on the achievements in the last round. This may vary again due to uptake rates as well as data accuracy.

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

3.11. In Haringey, the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy - November 2023 Phase 2 will allow for:

- Additional holiday support for households in receipt of Free School Meals up to the end of March 2024
- A £100 payment to:
 - Families in financial stress with children ineligible for Free School Meals
 - Families in financial stress with a disabled child
 - Low-income households with children under 5
 - Pensioner households in financial stress
 - Care leavers
 - Households with No Recourse to Public Funds in line with relevant guidance
 - Households who did not qualify for the Cost-of-Living Payments who are in financial stress
 - All other households identified as being in financial stress
- A £200 payment to:
 - Households in financial stress with a disabled claimant or partner

3.12. A total of £60,000 (plus administrative costs) will be allocated to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to support households most in need of extra support from minority and marginalised communities and/or those identified as living in 'hidden households', including:

- Households living with people with a disability

- Households from minority and marginalised communities
- Homeless people or people at risk of homelessness
- No recourse to public funds with a community care need (as per guidance)
- Households with large families to support
- Survivors of domestic abuse
- Individuals living in households of multiple occupancy
- Family carers

This list is not exhaustive and organisations will determine eligibility in accordance with the guidance. An allocation of any remaining funds, after the scheme administration costs, will be made to support individuals in financial hardship who make an application through the Haringey Support Fund for one-off support. Eligibility will be determined in accordance with the Haringey Support Fund scheme.

3.13. Households may be eligible for more than one payment.

3.14. The table below sets out the proposed allocations. This includes an upper limit, which will allow officers a small amount of discretion, in consultation with the Lead Member, to move funding between different projects, or to identify new projects. This is designed to ensure the council can remain agile and respond to emerging needs as this fund is delivered over the next few months.

Project	Description	Proposed allocation (limit) £000
Holiday free school meal vouchers	Free School Meal vouchers for school-aged children during holidays	£610k
Direct cash payments of £100 without an application process targeted to those identified through our data An additional £100 awarded to households in financial stress with a disabled family member (including a disabled child)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families in financial stress with children ineligible for Free School Meals • Pensioner households in financial stress • Households in financial stress with a disabled family member (including a disabled child) • Households who did not qualify for Cost of Living Payments who are in financial stress 	Up to £976k

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income households with children under 5 • Payments to care leavers • Households with No Recourse to Public Funds in line with relevant guidance • Other households identified in financial stress 	
Allocation to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations	Households most in need of extra support from minority and marginalised communities and/or those identified as living in 'hidden households'	Up to £60k (plus admin costs)
Funding Administered by the Council via the Haringey Support fund - application based process.	Households most in need of extra support in line with eligibility criteria for the scheme	Up to £260k
Administration	The costs of administering all of the above projects including, officers time, systems and supplies and services costs.	Up to £200k

4. Policy implementation and review

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

4.2. Despite this round being one year we have treat it as a six-month split, spending £2,707,390 in the first half of the year and a further £2,105,953 from October 2023. This is to reflect any changes in households who are in financial stress, and this approach will ensure the funds are allocated to those most in need at that time.

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