

Haringey Council

Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: May 2024

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 from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 (unless the policy is terminated on an earlier or later date).
- 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 £2,406,672 to cover the period to 30th September 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 2024 – 30th September 2024 is £2,406,672. All funds must be spent by 30th September 2024.

Previous rounds covered six or twelve months; this round is for six months and reflects that with half the grant that was given for last year.

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

- 3.4. Several direct one-off payments [from Central Government] that were awarded in 2023/24 have been considered when deciding how to distribute the current round of the household support fund.

These payments include:

- £900 for those on mean tested benefits which were paid in three instalments over 23/24 (those only in receipt of housing benefit were 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.

Additionally there was also:

- A £200 payment for households not connected to mains gas supply and who use alternative fuels for heating with payments made from February 2023.
- A £400 payment to support those without a domestic electricity meter (i.e. living in a care home or houseboat)

All support will be available to households with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in line with government guidance e.g. if there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example if:

- there are community care needs
- they have serious health problems
- there is a risk to a child's wellbeing

- 3.5. In Haringey, the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy – May 2024 will allow for:

1. Additional holiday support for households in receipt of Free School Meals up to the end of September 2024
2. 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
3. A £200 payment to:
 - Households in financial stress with a disabled claimant or partner
4. Applications to the local welfare assistance scheme (Haringey Support Fund) for assistance with day-to day living costs and household items which would reduce bills in the long-term

- 3.6 Households may be eligible for more than one payment.

Project	Description	Proposed allocation (limit)
Holiday free school meal vouchers	Free School Meal vouchers for school-aged children during holidays	£1.2m
<p>Direct cash payments of £100 without an application process targeted to those identified through our data</p> <p>An additional £100 awarded to households in financial stress with a disabled family member (including a disabled child)</p>	<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 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 	Up to £811k
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 £200k
Administration	The costs of administering all of the above projects including, officers time, systems and supplies and services costs.	Up to £200k

3.7 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.

3.8 Application based support is available through the Haringey Support Fund. There is an allocation of £200,000 to this fund to support those most in need who apply or are referred to the fund.

3.9 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations are encouraged to promote the Haringey Support Fund to residents most in need of extra support. These residents may be 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 can promote applications from people in accordance with the guidance. Eligibility will be determined in accordance with the Haringey Support Fund scheme.

4 Policy implementation and review

4.6 This Policy will be applied 1st April 2024 – 30th September 2024.

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