

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Haringey Council Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: May 2025**

#### **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 2025 to 31 March 2026 (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, and can be used further to fund preventative services, such as warm banks. However, the grant's primary purpose, is to provide crisis support. 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 may 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 Authorities are required to offer an application-based route to accessing some of the funding.
- 1.5 This document sets out 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 £4,241,687.45 to cover the twelve-month period to 31 March 2026.

#### **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 provide additional support to residents where they have lost entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment.
- 2.3 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 spend from the extension of the Household Support Fund for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 is £4,241,687.<sup>45</sup> All funds must be spent by 31st March 2026.
- 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. Funds may also be used for preventative services, such as cold weather provision. This policy includes a £15,000 allocation for this purpose because the previous funding provision through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has ended.
- 3.4. The Council will continue to use a data-driven approach to distribute the majority of funds; minimising administration costs and ensuring those most in need are supported without having to make a claim.
- 3.5. A proportion of the funding is made available to claim through the Haringey Support Fund so that all residents in hardship have the opportunity to claim additional support.
- 3.6. 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

- 3.9. In Haringey, the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy (April 2025) will allow for:

1. Additional holiday support for households in receipt of Free School Meals up to the end of March 2026

Vouchers will be distributed twice during the grant period, with eligibility assessments to be completed between June 2025-July 2025 and October 2025 – November 2025.

Vouchers for the values specified below will be sent to eligible residents:

2. A £95 payment to:

- Families in financial stress with children ineligible for Free School Meals
- 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

3. A £195 payment to:

- Households in financial stress with a disabled claimant or partner
- Families in financial stress with a disabled child

4. A £150 payment to:

- Pensioners in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction who are not in receipt of Pension Credit

5. 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. There is an allocation of £300,000 to this fund to support those most in need who apply or are referred to the fund.

3.10 Households may be eligible for more than one payment, but no household will receive more than £300 in each round of vouchers.

3.11 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, in accordance with the 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.

3.12 The grant will provide £15,000 to be distributed to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) for the provision of Warm Spaces.

3.13 The table below sets out the proposed allocations. This includes an upper estimate, 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.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed allocation (estimate)</b>
Holiday free school meal vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free School Meal vouchers for school-age children during holidays</li> </ul>	£1.99m
<p>Direct cash payments of £95 without an application process targeted to those identified through our data</p> <p>Direct cash payments of £195 without an application process targeted to those identified through our data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families in financial stress with children ineligible for Free School Meals</li> <li>Pensioner households in financial stress</li> <li>Low-income households with children under 5</li> <li>Payments to care leavers</li> <li>Households with No Recourse to Public Funds in line with relevant guidance</li> <li>Households in financial stress with a disabled family member (including a disabled child)</li> </ul>	£1.3m
Direct cash payments of £150 without an application process targeted to those identified through our data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pension-age households in receipt of Housing Benefit (HB) and/or Council Tax Support (CTS) who do not receive Winter Fuel Payment.</li> </ul>	£294,000
Funding Administered by the Council via the Haringey Support fund - application based process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households most in need of extra support in line with eligibility criteria for the scheme</li> </ul>	£300,000
Funding to be distributed to the VCS for the provision of warm spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£1,000 grants to be distributed to the VCS to enable warm space provision over the winter</li> </ul>	£15,000
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The costs of administering all of the above projects including, officers time,</li> </ul>	£350,000

	systems and supplies and services costs.	
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#### 4 Policy implementation and review

4.10 This Policy will be applied from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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