

Haringey Crisis & Resilience Fund Interim Funding Allocation Principles – April 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out Haringey Council's ("The Council's") approach to supporting residents through the additional funding from the Department for Work and Pension's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, unless terminated or revised.
- 1.2 A full policy will follow later in 2026 which will set out how the remaining funds allocated will be used to deliver the wider objectives of the fund in delivering longer-term financial resilience in Haringey. This document sets out the Council's interim plan to administer the Fund, by describing how the Council will spend £2,470,000 of the £5,932,161 fund, to maintain existing provisions whilst the full policy is developed.
- 1.3 This fund will replace the existing Discretionary Housing Payment and Household Support Fund, which end on 31 March 2026.
- 1.4 The Government has made this funding available to enable local authorities to provide support to low-income households through four separate work streams:

i. Crisis support

Authorities are expected to offer effective crisis support to low-income families experiencing sudden or unexpected fall in income or additional expense. Crisis schemes are expected to be available year-round, offer cash-first solutions and operate primarily through an application-basis.

ii. Housing payments

Housing support has previously provided through the national Discretionary Housing Payment scheme, which allows residents in receipt of Housing Benefit, or the Housing Element of Universal Credit, to apply for additional support with their rental liability.

The Council is required to include CRF provision to maintain this provision, albeit with tolerances to increase or decrease spending by 20% on 2025/26 spend levels.

iii. Resilience services

The CRF changes focus from a cost-of-living support to requiring authorities to deliver resilience building. This can be delivered by either the Council or voluntary and community sector organisations.

These activities are expected to contribute to several outcomes:

- Reduce experiences of material deprivation
- Reduced need for emergency food parcels
- Increased access to quality advice services
- Increased savings
- Maximisation of resident income
- Reduction in priority debt
- Decreased need for crisis payments

iv. Community coordination

The Council is also required to use part of the funding to create a better-connected local welfare landscape, including improved referral pathways and effective coordination of services.

- 1.5 Authorities have latitude to design schemes around these requirements but are required to submit a delivery plan to the Department for Work and Pensions, and submit bi-annual management reports.
- 1.6 Authorities are required to offer an application-based route to accessing housing support or crisis support.

2.1 Objectives embodied in this document

- 2.1 To provide effective crisis support to low-income households, through the ongoing provision of the Haringey Support Fund.
- 2.2 To provide additional housing support to residents in receipt of either Housing Benefit, or the Housing Element of Universal Credit, and who are unable to meet their rental liability.
- 2.3 To provide additional holiday support for households in receipt of Free School Meals up to the end of June 2026
- 2.5 To support households with dignity and without stigma, enabling residents to be as independent as possible.
- 2.6 To authorise administration spend required to ensure the smooth operation of the policy.

3. Crisis and Resilience Fund Spend

- 3.1 The maximum spend annually for the Crisis and Resilience Fund for the period 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 is £5,900,000. Funds can be carried forward into 2027/28 and 2028/29 but must be spend by 31 March 2029.
- 3.2 This document will allocate spend of up to £2,470,000, for the period 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
- 3.3 Crisis Support – Up to £1,000,000

Haringey Support Fund – Up to £550,000

This document authorises spend up to £550,000 on applications made to the Haringey Support Fund, so that residents in hardship are able to claim additional support. Decisions on eligibility for this spend will be made under the existing Haringey Support Fund policy.

Holiday support for Free School Meals – Up to £450,000

This document authorises spend of up to £450,000 for vouchers of £15 per week, to be distributed in the Easter 2026 and May 2026 school holidays, to pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

Resilience Services - £0

This document does not include any spending for the provision of resilience services.

Housing Support – Up to £1,192,000

This document authorises spend of up to £1,192,000 to provide additional support towards the rental liabilities of low-income households.

The spend level authorised is equal to the previous Discretionary Housing Payment grant the Council received.

Decisions of eligibility for Housing Support will be made according to the Council's Discretionary Housing Payment policy.

Community Collaboration

This document does not include any spending for community collaboration.

Administration Costs

The Crisis and Resilience Fund allows the Council to claim reasonable and proportionate administration cost. This document authorises spend of up to £278,000 for administration costs, for the provision of:

- IT costs - £78,000
- Staffing costs – £200,000

4. Principles - implementation and review

- 4.1 The principles set out in this document will be applied from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, or until it is superseded by a revised Crisis and Resilience Fund Policy, as agreed by the Council's cabinet.
- 4.2 In applying this document, the Council will have regard to relevant implementation guidance as issued.