

Schools Forum Funding & SEN Working Group
23rd May 2022

Schools Forum
9th June 2022

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND (HSF) - 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the councils expenditure plan for the Household Support Fund grant received from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP.)

Main Considerations

2. Central government introduced a “Winter Grant” during the pandemic to assist which later transformed into the “Local Grant.” Local authorities operated schemes within terms and conditions of the grant but with local flexibility to ensure local needs were prioritised. The grant is now renamed the Household Support Fund.
3. The allocations of support provided in Wiltshire to date have been:

Grant Name	Timeframe	Families with Children	Individuals and Families without Children	TOTAL Grant Allocation
Winter Grant	1/12/20-16/04/21	£1.280m	£0.131m	£1.412m + <i>admin £0.084m</i>
Local Grant & extension	17/4/21-30/09/21	£1.252 + <i>cfwd admin</i> £0.084m	£0.024m	£1.301m + <i>admin £0.003m</i>
Household Support Fund Surviving Winter	06/10/21-31/03/22	£1.868m	£0.733m	£2.601m + <i>£0.128m admin</i> <i>(LWP reserve)</i>

4. Some schemes were not fully taken up and in order to maximise the grant, allowable administration costs were claimed, the winter grant administration was added to the local grant funding and allocated to schemes for families with children. The surviving winter administration costs were transferred into a specific reserve in the balance sheet for local welfare provision (crisis support) to be used in 22-23.
5. Local partners including school and community groups have worked well together to ensure disadvantaged families and individuals have benefitted from this support.
6. The terms and conditions of the grant have changed over time with the focus moving from “at least 75%” to be used to support families with children to an equal split for 2022-23 HSF funding:
7. The Authority must ensure that:
 - i) at least 50% of the grant is allocated to support households that include:
 - a person who will be under the age of 19 as at 31st March 2022, or

- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit is paid or free school meals are provided during the Grant Period, and

ii) up to 50% of the grant is used to assist other households, and

b) the Authority is to ensure that the grant is primarily allocated to support with the costs of food, energy (for heating, lighting and cooking), water (for household purposes, including sewerage) and other essential living needs in accordance with the Scheme guidance.

c) in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency, the Authority may allocate grant funds to support with housing costs as set out in the Scheme guidance.

8. The planned use of the current year's allocation of £2,728,656.41 is as follows.

<p>Allocation to families with children £1,237,845 (45% of total grant)</p>	<p>FSM weekly payment of £12.14 per week (£15 for May half term & £10 per week of summer holidays).</p> <p>FSM allocation = £884,175 (£75 per child for the period) Low-income non-FSM allocation = £353,670 (£52 per child for the period)</p> <p>It is recommended that sums based on the number of children in this wider cohort at each school are transferred directly to individual schools for them to distribute at their discretion to meet need within the cohort during the grant period.</p>
<p>Allocation to pensioners £909,552 (33% of total grant)</p>	<p>Wiltshire Community Foundation 'Poverty Hurts' allocation: £101,111) this allocation has been doubled from the previous grant allocation which was fully spent.</p> <p>Pension Credit Households with no other income (6029) payment of £134 each = £808,441</p>
<p>Allocation of remaining funds for other vulnerable residents £538,632 (20% of total grant)</p>	<p>Food Banks £30,000 This allocation has been based on previous take up from the foodbanks.</p> <p>Housing Services £30,000 To focus on clients in temporary accommodation, supported accommodation or those recently moved into permanent accommodation who require additional support. This will mainly be for single clients but also for those families who are struggling. Planned assistance 500 – 600 clients mainly food vouchers or vouchers to assist with utility bills on average £50 per client.</p> <p>LWP £0 The service has confirmed no additional funding is required for this grant period due to the funding below</p> <p>Working Age Households £478,632 To be allocated to 7252 working age households affected by poverty & in a protected group with payment of £66 to be made directly to identified households via Payment Card. This group includes the long-term sick, receive PIP, DLA etc and those with a disability that would mean going to work is unlikely; they are the most vulnerable within the wider cohort of low-income working age households. It is known that 1600 of these households have children that</p>

	are eligible for FSM & will therefore also receive payment through that strand of HSF.
Admin costs £22,034	No Council admin costs have been factored in this is being absorbed. Payment card cost £22,034.56 7,252 payments would incur additional costs of £22,034.56 for training, set-up & card issue fees.
Contingency	£20,593.41 – to fund increased demand e.g., food banks
TOTAL	£2,728,656.41

Proposals

9. Schools Forum is asked to note the expenditure plan for the Household Support Fund and the change of focus from support for families to support both families and other households.

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