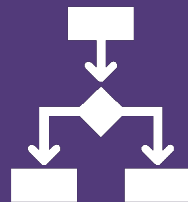


# Household Support Fund 6

## Health Select Committee

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/10672/HSF6-overview-eligibility-and-how-funds-can-be-used>



# HSF 6 - Award & Cohorts

**£2,728,656.41** (1 Oct 24 – 31 Mar 25)

- **families with children of all ages**
- **pensioners**
- **unpaid carers**
- **care leavers**
- **disabled people**
- **larger families**
- **single-person households**
- **struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events**

# Activities funded through HSF6



**Energy & Water** - Vouchers/cash to support energy bills

**Wider Essentials** - broadband, phone bills, clothing including uniforms, essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle.

**Essentials linked to Energy & Water** – insulation, boilers, lightbulbs, fridges, freezers, ovens and slow cookers.

**Preventative Measures** – financial advisors in our community food providers.

**Advice Services** - advice services, including debt, benefit and/or employment advice linked to food banks

**Housing** - Housing costs to those in need where existing housing schemes do not meet need.

# Highlights HSF (5) 2024

**71 Total Schemes:**

**Wiltshire Council 15**

**WCF 18**

**Foodbanks, Community food**

**Providers 30**

**Third Party Organisations 8**



**4.2% households pensioners**



**77% households children**



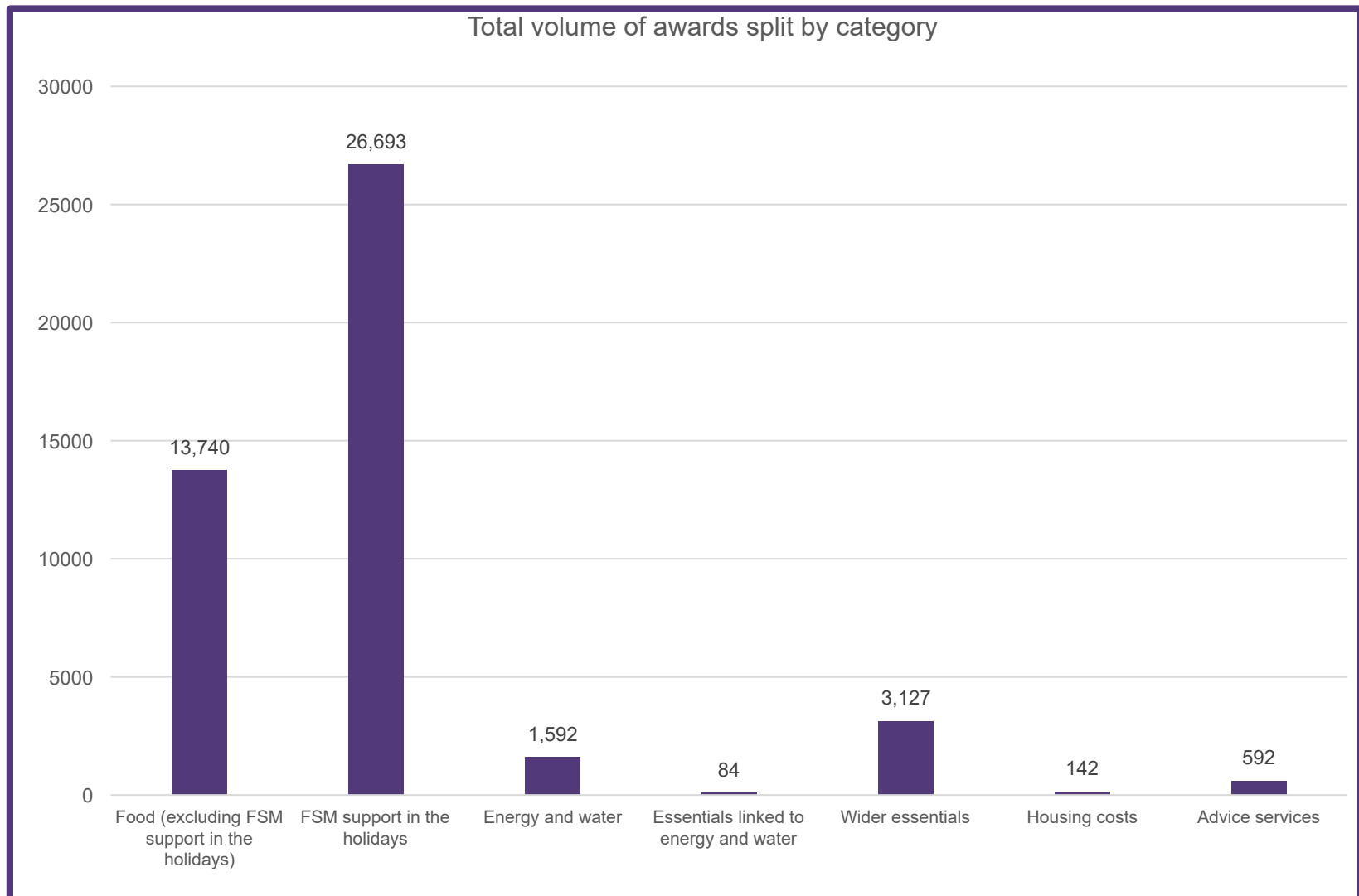
**78% vouchers or cash**



**8% Tangible items**

**37,898 Households helped**

**45,970 People helped**



## Boater Maintenance Support Fund (29 Boaters supported)

- Preventing Enforcement action & Homelessness
- Improving Mental Health and Well-being

### Canal Boat household

Female, health condition & mental health illness

Low income, unable to afford repairs, threat of homelessness


Identified by Julian House, referred

Awarded HSF5 Support

Repairs

Passed safety inspection

Remains a home




“My living conditions improved and gave me a sense of hope and pride in my home”

# Implications of cost of living & removal of WFA on Warm&Safe Wiltshire

- **Budget strain for heating homes, especially for vulnerable up.**
- Cold homes significantly **impact physical and mental health.**
- **Warm and safe helpline referrals up 50%** ( Jul-Sep 23 = 463 - 24 = 1021 ),
- **Average call lengths up** (Call length - 2023 = 20/30 mins - 2024 = 40/50 mins
- **Plus second follow up call due to complexities** (beyond affordable warmth, wider debt and wellbeing support)
- Further impacted by **older people contacting the service regarding WFA removal.**
- **Backlog and longer wait times for support.**
- **Increase in call numbers and length** across Council's Wellbeing line and Citizen Advice.

# HSF6 Targeted Older People Energy Support (R&Bs) Jan 2025

## Removal of Winter Fuel Payments

- 23/24 - 124,004 Wiltshire pensioners received WFA . Total = Approx £28M
- 24/25 - Wiltshire Pensioners receiving WFA ?
- **Support pensioners** not eligible for pension credit but **on low income** and **in poor health** 
- **Will identify:**
  - low-income pensioner households not on Pension Credit
  - In receipt of council tax reduction support
  - In receipt of a disability related council tax reduction
  - In receipt of adult social care services package
  - Aged 80 years or over (evidence shows that the health needs are greater with age)
- Approx **1000 households meet criteria** - reducing slightly as pension credit applications are made
- **£300 voucher per household will be offered for application**
- **Encourage pensioner households to claim Pension Credit before 21st December 2024.**  
Successful claimants will then receive WFA.