

Cabinet
Household Support Fund – Briefing Note
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Executive Summary

In May, the Chancellor announced a number of measures to support vulnerable people including an extension to the Household Support Fund for the 6-month period October 2022 to March 2023.

Final guidance and funding notification were received 30 September 2022.

The expectation is that Household Support Fund should primarily be used to support vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.

There have been a number of changes to the guidance compared with previous schemes.

1. No ringfence of any proportion of funding for any particular cohort of people.
2. Requirement for all Authorities to operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis. This means residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support.
3. There is also an expectation of Authorities to particularly consider those groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support.
4. Authorities should also consider providing support to disabled people in their area. Disabled people in particular may be facing acute challenges due to the disproportionate impact that rising costs bring for the additional services they need in order to manage their conditions, remain independent and avoid becoming socially isolated. Authorities are therefore encouraged to explore ways in which this group may be supported and must record the total value of awards granted to disabled people in their management information (MI) returns.

Household Support Fund - October 2022 to March 2023

Agreed use of funds

Household Support Fund 01/10/22 to 31/03/23	
Category	Budget
	£
Free School Meals (5 Weeks) (£15)	£600,000
Care Leavers	£37,800
Essential Living Fund	£650,000
Contingency	£7,241
Total	£1,295,041

Free School Meals

Is a means to distribute targeted funding to children with families. Public perception also links holiday FSM to the Household Support Fund. Current projections show 8,000 children and young people would be supported in each of the 5 school holiday weeks.

Care Leavers - Support will be provided linked to resources available. Currently 252 care leavers have accessed this funding.

Essential Living Fund

The scheme can again be expanded to include Utilities and the amount awarded prioritised to Food and Fuel with a 4-week award. Discussions will be held on a monthly basis, to understand take up, to ensure funds are utilised. The ELF is not restricted and will support the allocation of funds to all residents, deliver on the targeted groups outlined above and the requirement for people to self-refer for emergency help.

Household Support Fund April 2022 to September 2022

As shown below the proposal is consistent with the previous allocations.

Household Support Fund 01/04/22 to 30/09/22	
Category	Budget
	£
Free School Meals (May £15; Summer £60)	£600,407
Care Leavers	£25,200
Essential Living Fund	£242,088
Pensioners	£427,346
Total	£1,295,041

In the previous scheme it was a requirement that at least one third of the total funding must be spent on pensioners. The Local Council Tax Scheme (LCTS) data was used to identify low-income pensioner households. Approximately 3,500 pensioners in receipt of LCTS received £120 per household.