

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	11 May 2023
Title:	Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund April 2023 to March 2024
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach for allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension across Hampshire for the period April 2023 to March 2024. This report seeks approval from the Executive Lead Member for 12 months of spend and grant funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.
2. The DWP expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need, particularly those not eligible for the other support Government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that a discretionary grant of £2,845,622 be available for schools, colleges and early years settings such that the funding would be available to support vulnerable families during each term, as described in paragraphs 28-32 of the report.
4. It is recommended that £8,600 is allocated to enable two £100 food vouchers to be distributed to 43 families open to children's social care teams whose children are educated other than at school to contribute to the cost of living pressures.
5. It is recommended that £242,000 is ringfenced to award one £500 food voucher to each Hampshire Foster Carer with a child(ren) currently in placement to contribute to the increase in cost of living, and that £70,000 to be awarded to 140 families where there is a Looked After Child placed at

home, to be provided in the form of one £500 voucher per household.

6. It is recommended that a £500 food voucher is awarded to 946 eligible Special Guardianship Order or connected carers currently receiving financial support, at a total cost of £473,000.
7. It is recommended that £24,000 is distributed to children's social care district-based teams across Hampshire, so that financial assistance can be given at their discretion to vulnerable families as described in paragraph 36 of the report.
8. It is recommended that grants to a total value of £3,441,870 are distributed to District and Borough Councils across Hampshire, such that they can provide one £50 food voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £80 to households in receipt of housing benefit only, as described in paragraphs 37 to 38.
9. It is recommended that £112,400 is ringfenced to provide two £100 food vouchers to families open to the Disabled Children's Team and £460,000 to provide direct fuel support to adults open to social care not in residential accommodation, those that do not have any care and vulnerable adults who present in crisis at the front door to Adult and Health Care services.
10. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services grant funding to organisations that support unpaid carers in Hampshire up to the value of £361,000, including £11,000 of administrative costs during the financial year, and in accordance with the grant guidance in paragraph 24.
11. It is recommended that £177,400 is awarded for individuals open to Care Leavers teams to receive four £50 food vouchers across the financial year to contribute to the increased cost of living.
12. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with organisations that support unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-18 and the resettlement of families in Hampshire to distribute food vouchers up to the value of £21,500 during the financial year, and in accordance with the grant guidance in paragraph 24.
13. It is recommended that a grant of £880,500 is made available to Citizens Advice to support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs during the financial year, supporting 5,000 households.
14. It is recommended that up to £200,000 be ringfenced to commission and support advice services on budgeting, finances, maximising income as well as accessing other help with food or fuel. Council officers will work with local communities to identify those organisations best placed to deliver such advice services, which may include Citizens Advice and community-based

organisations. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with such organisations and grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 24.

15. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve grant awards to organisations for the delivery of community pantry network schemes up to the value of £800,000 throughout the financial year.
16. It is recommended that £1,001,000 is distributed to District and Borough councils to support households with exceptional housing costs during the financial year in accordance with paragraphs 63 to 65 of the report.
17. It is recommended that £500,000 is made available through grants for organisations who wish to support vulnerable residents county-wide and a further £800,000 for locally based organisations who wish to support residents with food and fuel poverty and wish to apply for a community grant. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 24.
18. It is recommended that approval is given to award grants to deliver county-wide support with food and fuel related initiatives as follows:
 - Hampshire Library Service £64,000 to provide essentials linked to climate change sessions such as draft excluders, cooking on a budget items, hot and cold refreshments at support groups; to work with partners to provide food and fuel related advice on library premises; to provide drop in sessions for free school meal eligible families, and supporting those out of work.
 - £440,000 to the Environment Centre for providing direct guidance and support to households of any tenure on a range of energy-related topics, which would be delivered through a mix of remote help as well as face to face appointments, depending on need; and to provide capital grants to 150 households.
 - £240,000 grant is awarded to Adult Health and Care to extend the community wellbeing service supporting the most vulnerable older people to access food and fuel support, anticipated to support 880-1,320 older adults during the year.
19. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in paragraphs 3 to 18 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

Executive Summary

20. This report seeks to detail the proposed approach and allocation of funds for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund 12-month extension across Hampshire. A key aim for the connect4communities programme will be to continue to support sustainable and environmentally beneficial food poverty support. In addition to direct energy support, this will also enable us to further support with the increasing energy costs by freeing up household income which can be allocated to utility bills.
21. Although the grant has no ringfenced spend relating to types of households, the DWP grant guidance stresses that the fund is intended to cover a range of low- income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people. The proposed Hampshire offer has initiatives in place to support these target cohorts.

Contextual information

22. On 17 November 2022, the Government announced, as part of a number of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living, that the Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended for twelve months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 with a further £842m of national funding.
23. The final guidance relating to the fourth iteration of the Fund was shared with local authorities on 20 February 2023 ([Household Support Fund: guidance for local councils - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils) (www.gov.uk)). The grant determination confirms that Hampshire County Council's allocation is £14,248,254, to be spent between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Despite being a grant extension, any grant underspend from the grant relating to the previous period cannot be carried forward and there are some changes to the grant guidance.
24. The DWP's expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need particularly those including children and pensioners who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low-income households during the period of the Fund and Local Authorities should especially consider how they can support households with the cost of energy. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
25. Compared to some earlier Household Support Fund allocations, there is no ringfence of any proportion of the funding for specific cohorts of people. However, there is a requirement for all Authorities to operate at least a part of their scheme on an application basis. This means residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is also an expectation on Authorities to particularly consider those groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support, and Authorities are

expected to offer support throughout the duration of the Fund period.

26. New for this iteration of the Household Support Fund is the ability to provide supplementary advice services, including debt and benefit advice, where Authorities consider this appropriate. The DWP would expect any advice services to complement the practical crisis support offered.
27. Authorities must make public their plans for the Fund on their Authority website, including how and when they intend to deliver the application-based portion of their scheme. Authorities are also expected to advertise the scheme through various channels, and not just online.

The Proposed Hampshire Offer

Provision for targeted cohorts

28. Low-income households with children

29. It is recommended that a discretionary grant of £2,845,622 be available for schools, colleges and early years settings such that the funding would be available to support vulnerable families during each term.
30. The value of the discretionary grant allocation to each setting would be based on the number of children on roll, and for schools, the number of benefits-related free school meal eligible children. The discretionary grant is not means tested and is not specifically for those in receipt of benefits. Schools, colleges and early years settings have the discretion to support families they recognise as being in need, for example low paid working parents who seek support. Support may be provided through a food voucher or for wider essentials such as warm clothing, white goods or blankets.
31. Settings can apply for discretionary grant each term to enable them to assist those families most in need, as intake and need may change throughout the year. Any schools that require additional funding over and above the amount allocated can apply for additional funding through the Community Grant scheme outlined in paragraph 69 to 75.
32. The element of the discretionary grant relating to the free school meal eligible children is for schools only, and is not available for schools that had over 15% of their income held as balances at the end of 2022/23.
33. There are 43 children open to children's social care teams who are educated other than at school in Hampshire, who would otherwise have been eligible for free school meals. It is recommended that £8,600 is allocated to enable two £100 food vouchers to be distributed to 43 families open to children's social care teams whose children are educated other than at school to contribute to the cost of living pressures.

34. Hampshire County Council has 517 foster carers with a child in placement supporting some of the most vulnerable children in Hampshire. In recognition of this, approval is sought for £242,000 to award one £500 food voucher to each Hampshire Foster Carer with a child(ren) currently in placement to contribute to the increase in cost of living, and that approval is also sought for £70,000 to be awarded to 140 families where there is a Looked After Child placed at home, to be provided in the form of one £500 voucher per household.
35. There are children currently placed with connected carers or under Special Guardianship Orders where the Council provides an element of financial assistance that is usually means tested. It is recommended that a £500 food voucher is awarded to 946 eligible Special Guardianship Order or connected carers at a total cost of £473,000.
36. Children's social care teams and Family Support Services provide a range of support to families in need and in crisis. Approval is sought to enable £24,000 to be distributed to children's social care district-based teams across Hampshire. The grant will be used for discretionary assistance, according to the presenting financial needs of the families they support who may be receiving early help, assessed as having a Child in Need or with Child Protection plans. Enabling this discretionary support could provide an immediate response for families and support them in achieving desired outcomes, and could take the form of food vouchers, contributions to clothing, transport or warm packs for example. This could support up to 480 households.
37. **Pensioners, low-income households and households that are not in receipt of other government support**
38. It is recommended that grants to a total value of £3,441,870 are distributed to District and Borough Councils across Hampshire, such that they can provide one £50 food voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £80 to households in receipt of housing benefit only. As per the DWP guidance, those on housing benefits only are being targeted because they are ineligible for other government support with the cost of living. This support will benefit nearly 66,000 households across Hampshire.
39. **Unpaid Carers**
40. The most recent census data from 2011 shows 133,000 people in Hampshire who identified as carers. During COVID, Hampshire County Council worked with voluntary sector partner organisations to successfully distribute funding which reached carers in most need of support.
41. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to grant funding to organisations that support unpaid carers in Hampshire up to the value of £361,000, including £11,000 of administrative costs during the financial year,

and in accordance with the grant guidance in paragraph 24.

42. Care Leavers

43. It is recommended that £177,400 is awarded for individuals open to Care Leavers teams to receive four £50 food vouchers across the financial year to contribute to the increased cost of living. As per the other targeted groups, care leavers will also be able to access the other forms of support on offer such as the community pantry network outlined in paragraphs 56 to 60 and utility support and advice outlined in paragraphs 51 to 55. This will benefit 678 care leavers and 103 post 16 children in supported lodging.

44. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

45. There are 45 properties supporting the resettlement of families in Hampshire and 170 unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged between 16 and 18 who could benefit from financial support. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with organisations that support the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 16-18 and the resettlement of families in Hampshire to distribute food vouchers up to the value of £21,500 during the financial year and in accordance with the grant guidance in paragraph 24.

46. Those with disabilities

47. For children with disabilities, we will target children that have met the threshold to be open to our Disabled Children's Team, and those that have Gateway Cards, working with our social care teams and organisations to deliver direct support. There are currently 670 children open to our Disabled Children's Team and 2,000 Gateway Card holders.

48. For adults with disabilities, we will target adults that have met the threshold for our Adult Health and Care social care teams. Within this cohort, adults that do not live in residential care will be targeted for support. There are around 6,500 adults with disabilities open to social care that are not in residential accommodation and just over 500 who do not have any care provision in place that would benefit from this grant.

49. It is recommended the Executive Lead Member approves the allocation of £112,400 to provide two £100 food vouchers to families open to the Disabled Children's Team and £460,000 to provide direct fuel support to adults open to social care not in residential accommodation, those that do not have any care and vulnerable adults who present in crisis at the front door to Adult and Health Care services.

Self-referral Application

50. Utility support

51. It is recommended that a grant of £880,500 is made available to Citizens Advice to support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs during the financial year, supporting 5,000 households. County council officers will continue to work with Citizens Advice to target support towards energy costs, reduce the potential for double funding and providing the financial support alongside broader support and advice. Citizens Advice is also well placed to undertake ID and benefits checks to mitigate potential risks of fraudulent claims.
52. Citizens Advice require £86,600 to deliver the administration of this scheme in order to administer the payments, carry out eligibility and fraud checks and to provide debt relief support, if applicable.
53. Whilst there are providers on the market for providing fuel vouchers for pre-payment meters, there is a fee payable for each voucher and there is not yet an offer available for paying fuel bills that are not pre-payment. Conversely there is a wide market of providers who supply easy to use food vouchers with no fee, through the use of food vouchers the programme is freeing up more disposable income which would be available for food costs.

54. Advice relating to food or fuel poverty

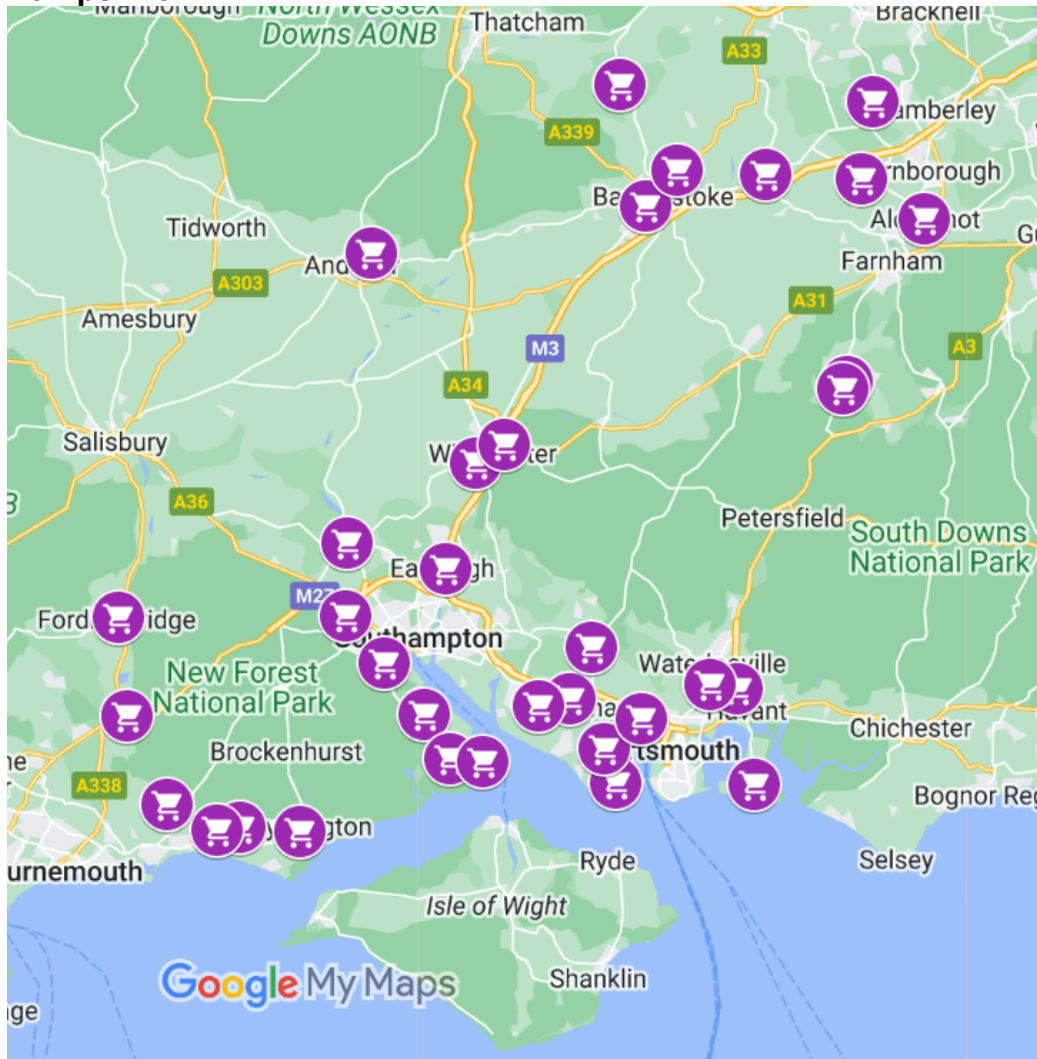
55. In addition, it is recommended that up to £200,000 be ringfenced to commission and support advice on budgeting, finances, maximising income as well as accessing other help. Council officers will work with local communities to identify those organisations best placed to deliver such advice services, which may include Citizens Advice and community-based organisations such as outreach from DWP job seekers support in Hampshire's libraries and community pantries. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with such organisations and grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 24.

56. Community Pantries

57. Community pantries work on the principle of giving those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lower rate on a weekly basis. Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen and general foods which will change on a weekly basis. Access to the community pantry is by way of membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members receive food to a significantly higher value than if purchased in local shops or the supermarket. For example, members are charged a nominal sum of £5.00 per shop and receive £15 plus worth of goods. Community pantries will be encouraged to provide a delivery service for those who are not able to come and shop for whatever reason.

58. There are 21 fixed venue connect4communities pantries in Hampshire and 13 mobile larders, of which 11 are based in the New Forest. There is a current membership of over 6,500 households which continues to increase. The map below shows where the pantries are located.

Map One: location of connect4communities pantries and larders in Hampshire



59. It is proposed that funding is provided to continue to support the network of community pantries to provide sustainable alternatives to free school meal vouchers and support to any household that is in need. This will be through support to fund the increase in cost of food and gaps from a decrease in donated food; food vouchers for those unable to afford the membership fee; development of a food hub scheme; and a discretionary fund to support households with home, family and cooking essentials (not including white goods).
60. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve grant awards to organisations for the delivery of such schemes up to the value of

£800,000 throughout the financial year. Through the grant, we will also continue to work with community organisations to broaden the support offer to include wraparound services such as health services, employment and financial support.

61. Exceptional housing support

62. As in previous DWP Household Support Funds, the grant guidance states that in exceptional cases of genuine emergency and where existing housing schemes do not meet the exceptional need, support for housing costs can be met. It is recommended that £1,001,000 is distributed to District and Borough councils as set out in the table below to support households with exceptional housing costs during the financial year as identified in the DWP grant guidance (para 63 – 65 below).

Table One: Exceptional housing support District and Borough allocations

	Exceptional housing (£)
Basingstoke and Dean	110,000
East Hampshire District Council	119,000
Eastleigh Borough Council	93,000
Fareham Borough Council	60,000
Gosport Borough Council	63,000
Hart District Council	59,000
Havant Borough Council	140,000
New Forest District Council	90,000
Rushmoor Borough Council	84,000
Test Valley Borough Council	97,000
Winchester City Council	86,000
TOTAL	1,001,000

63. In the case of providing financial support around housing, eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through the Household Support Fund. Similarly, the Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).

64. The Fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for Discretionary Housing Payments. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary

intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.

65. The Household Support Fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies, nor can it be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of the Fund (such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.
66. District and borough councils will require £152,254 to administer the exceptional housing and food voucher schemes.

Community Grants

67. Infrastructure projects

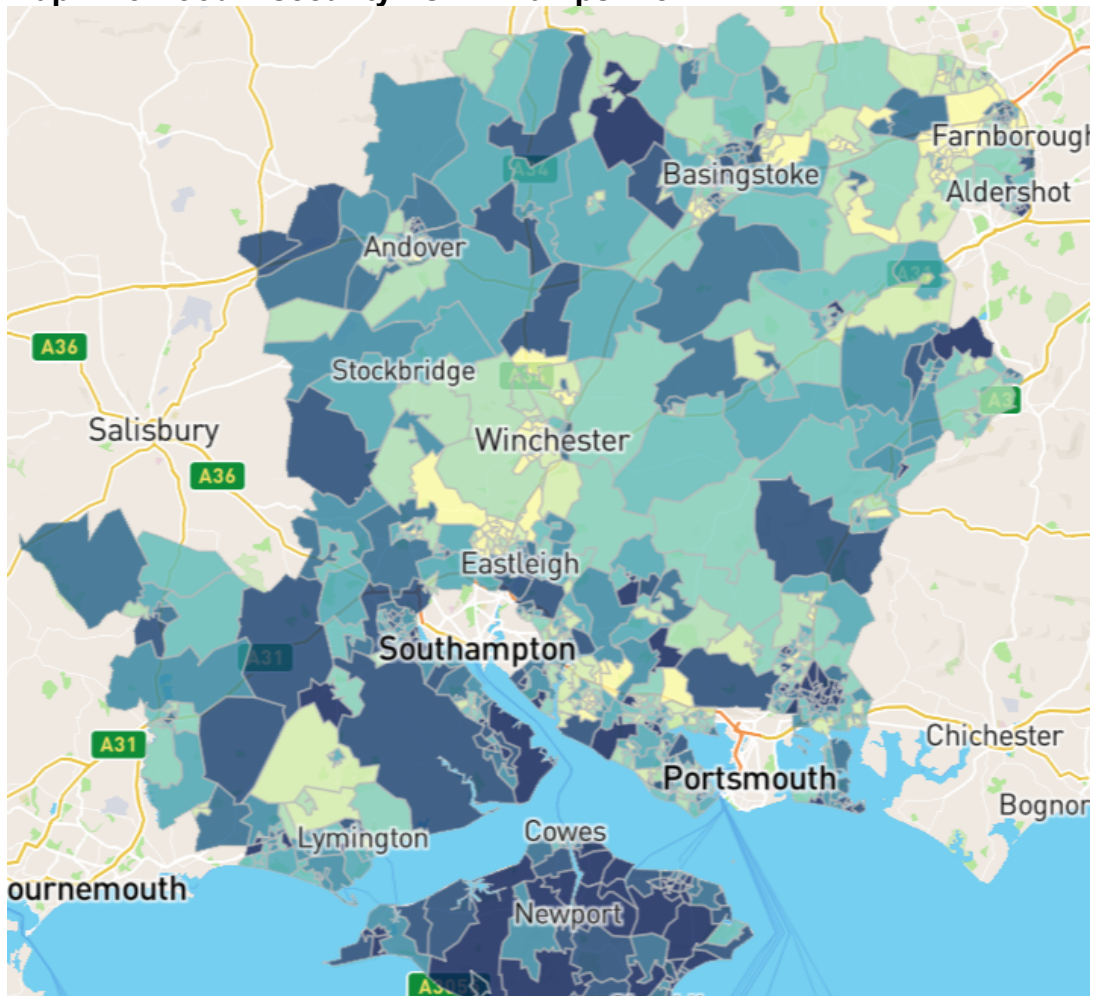
68. There are a number of organisations providing support across Hampshire that meet the DWP criteria as set out in paragraph 24, to whom it is recommended that grants are awarded as follows:
69. Hampshire Library Service provides essential resources to the most vulnerable within our communities, including after school clubs, signposting to relevant services, chat about groups for the elderly and infirm including those with disabilities, additional needs and those living with dementia. It is recommended that £64,000 is awarded to the Library Service to extend and develop its current offer so that it can provide essentials linked to climate change sessions such as draft excluders, cooking on a budget items, hot and cold refreshments at support groups; to work with partners to provide food and fuel related advice on library premises; to provide drop in sessions for free school meal eligible families, and supporting those out of work. Extending this work in libraries could reach 21,000 residents.
70. The Environment Centre supports those in most need with affordable warmth related matters and has seen more than a 50% increase in demand for affordable warmth support over the last two years. It is recommended that a grant of £440,000 is awarded to the Environment Centre to continue and enhance this provision by providing direct guidance and support to households of any tenure on a range of energy-related topics, which would be delivered through a mix of remote help as well as face to face appointments, depending on need; and to provide grants to 150 households on means tested benefits or low income and vulnerable for essential heating and hot water works or for practical household items to reduce energy or help them to keep warm.
71. Adults Health and Care has been running a pilot of voluntary sector community wellbeing workers, who receive referrals from Older Adults social care teams, focus on providing preventative services including reducing food

and fuel poverty, and are linked in with the Hampshire Social Prescribing Network. The grant will extend the community wellbeing worker offer to provide face to face support signposting to the most vulnerable older adults to support networks, such as accessing community pantries and citizens advice. It is recommended that £240,000 grant is awarded to Adult Health and Care to expand the community wellbeing service, anticipated to support 880-1,320 older adults during the year.

72. Community Grants

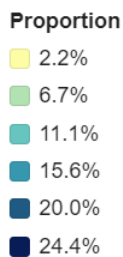
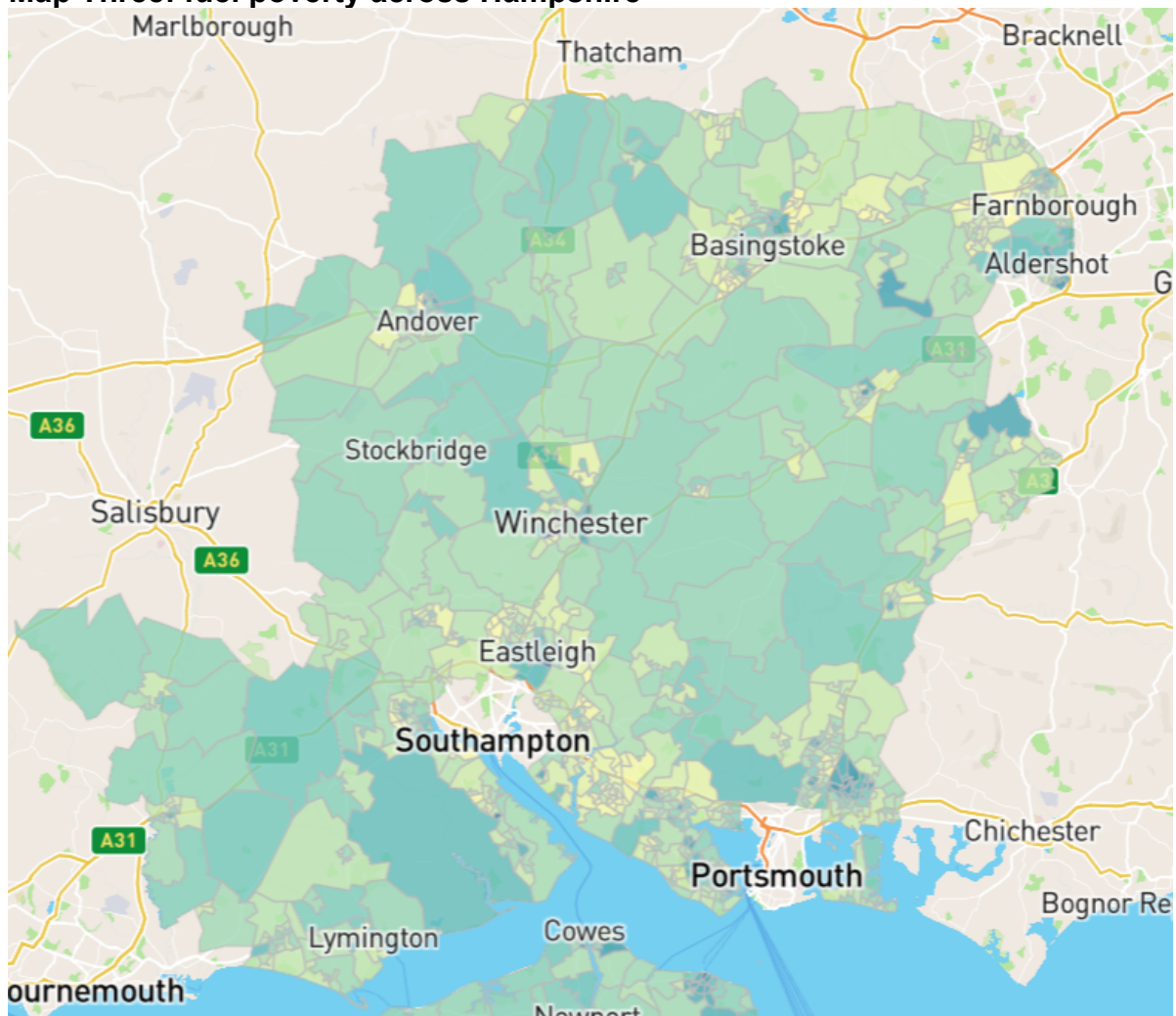
73. It is recommended that £500,000 is made available through grants for organisations who wish to support vulnerable residents county-wide with food and fuel poverty and wish to apply for a community grant. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 24.
74. It is also recommended that a further £800,000 is made available for locally based organisations who wish to support their local community with food and fuel poverty, particularly in rural areas. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 24, however the fund will be flexible and responsive to local needs as and when they are identified. This community grant fund will also provide support to households who may not be able to access other initiatives set out in this report, for example, chatty cafes to provide food support for mother and baby groups with younger children who may not be in education settings to receive support through these schemes.
75. The following map demonstrates the differences in food insecurity risk as defined by the University of Southampton across the county, with the darkest localities experiencing the most, and the lightest the least.

Map Two: food insecurity risk in Hampshire



76. 7% households in Hampshire were considered to be in fuel poverty in 2020, although as the following map shows, this is unevenly experienced across the county and there are areas where this figure is much higher, in some cases more than 20% of households.

Map Three: fuel poverty across Hampshire



77. In order to reflect these and other inequalities and pressures within districts, it would seem appropriate to recommend a model of weighted determining factors to enable the community grant allocation to be notionally allocated across the District geographies. These factors have been identified from the Public Health [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#), including unemployment and low wages, areas of deprivation, populations of the elderly, disabled, and unpaid carers, and proportion of residents facing food and fuel poverty. In operating this community grant, the Council would seek to involve Local Children’s Partnerships and District-based welfare leads in the evaluation of grant applications to ensure that funding can have the most impact, duplication can be minimised, and specific gaps in provision can be targeted.

These indicative allocations by district or borough council locality would be as follows:

Districts	Proportion of Hants population	Indicative community budget allocation
Basingstoke and Deane	12.94%	£61,256.63
East Hampshire	8.95%	£63,088.12
Fareham	8.21%	£63,845.90
Gosport	5.93%	£100,180.96
Rushmoor	7.01%	£69,048.35
Hart	7.12%	£44,909.91
Havant	9.00%	£139,092.11
New Forest	12.71%	£78,224.08
Test Valley	9.34%	£54,913.92
Eastleigh	9.69%	£63,191.73
Winchester	9.09%	£62,248.29

78. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve community grants to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant for targeted financial support for those in need, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £800,000.
79. **Administration costs**
80. The DWP Household Support Fund guidance allows for reasonable administration costs to be funded from the grant allocation such that enable local authorities, and their partners to deliver the programme.
81. The County Council intends to use up to £1,096,362 (7.7%) of the funding to cover reasonable administration costs for all partners which will include relevant staff costs and administration costs of partner organisations.
82. The DWP is keen that a telephone helpline is provided to help signpost households to support funded through the Household Support Fund. It is proposed that the existing Hampshire County Council Children's Services and General Helplines are used for this purpose, as has been the case for previous Household Support Fund programmes.
83. Extensive communications are planned to ensure that a range of professional agencies and partner organisations are aware of the connect4communities programme and can signpost vulnerable households to the support being offered.

84. Furthermore, the existing connect4communities directory will be further developed so that organisations and community groups can publish details of any local opportunities or support they wish to share. This is hosted on the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub:
(FISH: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>)
85. This directory enables residents of Hampshire to search by postcode to identify where they may be able to access financial and other support including subsidised food. For Hampshire County Council and partners, this will provide a way to capture offers of support beyond those coordinated directly by the connect4communities programme, and an effective way of signposting residents to available support.

Finance

86. A summary of the proposed allocation of funding across the initiatives to be delivered through the connect4communities scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund is set out in table 2.

Table 2: Proposed funding allocations

connect4communities – Hampshire County Council Household Support Fund	
Component	Funding allocation (£)
Education settings discretionary grant	2,845,622
Food vouchers for people in receipt of council tax reduction support and housing benefit	3,441,870
Unpaid carers grants	350,000
Care Leaver food vouchers	177,400
Those with disabilities grants	572,400
Utility Support	880,500
Food and fuel poverty related advice	200,000
Community Pantries	800,000
Community and infrastructure grants	2,044,000
Exceptional Housing support	1,001,000
Foster carer and other carers support	785,000
Children's social care, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children,	54,100

and those educated other than at school	
Sub total	13,151,892
Administration	1,096,362
Total plan	14,248,254

87. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in this report to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.
88. This grant is for a defined twelve-month period, with no expectation of recurrent funding. There is therefore an element of risk that without further funding after the grant period ends, services may experience an increase in demand from households in crisis. Mitigations include the community pantries and work to ensure that, where appropriate, projects receiving community grant funding can be sustainable.

Performance

89. Authorities are required to send DWP a delivery plan outlining their intentions for the Fund, clearly setting out priorities and approach for use of the Fund and to demonstrate the ways in which they intend to allocate their funding.
90. All funding granted to third party organisations (including schools, colleges, early years providers and district and borough councils) will be supported by a grant agreement setting out the conditions of the funding as well as reporting requirements.
91. Third party organisations will be required to report to the Council on how they have spent the funding provided, in line with the DWP grant criteria.
92. Authorities are required to comply with DWP's reporting and Management Information (MI) requirements. The management information required by the DWP for this grant requires a granular data return from grant recipients. For each award as well as the spend and volumes, the number of households is also required. For example, if one family received £15 food vouchers from their school for their 2 children this will be reported as a total spend of £30, with a volume of 2 for 1 household.
93. Spend information is required by:
- Household composition (household with children, with pensioners, with a disabled person or other)
 - Category (energy and water, food excluding FSM support in the holidays, free school meal support in the holidays, essentials linked to energy and water, wider essentials or housing costs)
 - Type of support (vouchers, cash, third party, tangible item, or other)

- Access route (application based, proactive support, other).

Consultation and Equalities

94. Consultation and engagement have been undertaken as part of developing and delivering the connect4communities programme.
95. School and colleges have previously been consulted by way of a questionnaire regarding their preferred method of supporting children with food.
96. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, which will be published in advance of the decision day and is contained at Appendix A.
97. The proposals will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics associated with age, disability, race, and poverty. Initiatives include open access as well as targeted support, and community grant funding will be notionally allocated across District geographies to reflect poverty related inequalities and pressures.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

98. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

99. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tools were not applicable on this occasion because the decision relates to a programme that is strategic/administrative in nature.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	