

Request:

1. How much money was your local authority allocated under the UK Government's Household Support Fund scheme for the period 6 October 2021 to 30 September 2022?

£1,609,998.05 for the period October 2021 to 31.03.22 then another £1,609,998.05 for the period 01.04.22 to 30.09.22.

2. By 1 October 2022, how much of this money was distributed to households (whether in the form of cash, vouchers or any other way)?

All

3. As of 28 October 2022, how much of the money allocated to your local authority under the Household Support Fund scheme for 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 has been distributed to households (whether in the form of cash, vouchers or any other way)?

£6,506

4. What support is currently available through the Household Support Fund for households in your local authority (for example, cash payments, fuel vouchers, food, etc)?
Please provide as much detail as possible, including a link to your website, if available.

We are supporting families with a supermarket voucher worth £15.00 per child per week of the school holidays for 2022/23, and also a voucher for £45.00 for warm school clothing. Other support will be in provided in line with government guidance, via vouchers, food parcels, money into bank accounts to pay essential bills and also meter top ups.

5. What is the eligibility criteria for the Household Support Fund in your local authority?

Applications will be via an application process, telephone and an online form and each case will be looked at on its own merits. We are being flexible in our approach but generally the claimant would need to have had a crisis or a change in their circumstances that has meant they are struggling to manage their bills.

6. Do individuals have to apply for your local authority's Household Support Fund or is it automatic?

Some are automatic such as the school meal vouchers during holidays and also the warm school clothing grant which is available to Free School Meal families.

a. If individuals need to apply, how can they do this? Please provide postal address, phone number, email and/or URL for application, as relevant.

We are currently developing the online form, until that is available anyone in a crisis who needs support can telephone Welfare Assistance team on (0191) 643 2777 and press option 2 between 9am and 2pm, Monday to Friday.

b. If individuals need to apply, what evidence do they have to provide with their application?

This is dependent on the crisis as each claim is considered on its own merits.

c. If individuals need to apply, what is the deadline for applications (if any)?

No deadline as yet, this may change depending on how much demand we have.

7. Can households access support from your local authority's Household Support Fund more than once?

Yes

a. If so, are there any restrictions on this?

No