

Reference: RFI 1710105

Request:

Please send me the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act:

1) Does your council run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, designed to provide emergency and/or community assistance?

Yes

2) What has been its budget for each of the past 5 financial years (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14)?

2013/14 to 2016/17 - Refer to RFI 1612057

2017/18 £1,035,899.

The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme forms part of the budget of the Gateway service which provides a point of access for social care services, signposting, advice and information, welfare benefits checks and access to Local Welfare Assistance Scheme direct support. It is not possible to disaggregate the elements relating only to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme as the council has taken a holistic approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable residents which, where required includes supply of good and services but also involves working with voluntary organisations to build resilience in the community, maximising opportunities to claim benefits and offering advice, information and signposting to relevant organisation who provide support.

3) How much has been spent in each of those financial years? For 2017/18, please give the figure for the first six months (April to September inclusive).

2013/14 to 2016/17 – Refer to RFI 1612057

The actual final spend figure for 2016/17 was £1,138,183 with the first 6 months of 2017/18 being £521,193.

4) If there have been any underspends in recent years in your LWAS, where has that money been redirected to (eg has it gone to other budget areas, increasing the LWAS budget for the subsequent year, or elsewhere?)

Any under spends on LWAS contribute towards the overall financial position of the Council in each financial year.

5) How many applications have been made in each of those financial years? For 2017/18, please give the figure for the first six months (April to September inclusive).

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13/14	2565
14/15	2157
15/16	1875
16/17	1913
17/18 April to September	831

6) Of those, how many applications have been successful and how many have been rejected in each year? If a breakdown exists by emergency / community element, please provide this. If a breakdown exists for the reasons for rejection, please provide this.

All applications are assessed on the day. Support is given to all applicants to ensure any benefit entitlement is in payment to avoid having to access support from other resources.

All those who still require support are assessed against the criteria for support by the local authority. This is that the applicant is in crisis on the day without access to a personal support solution. To be eligible for support there would need to be children in the family and/or adults with a significant vulnerability and/or health needs.

Wherever possible those who are not eligible for support from the local authority are referred and/or signposted to local and community resources such as Foodbanks CAB and Credit Unions

	Eligible for direct support from the LA	Signposted/ referred for support	No support provided
13/14	563	900	1102
14/15	883	943	333
15/16	789	855	231
16/17	797	838	278
17/18 April to September	340	361	130

7) Is your LWAS fully funded by the council? If there are external funders, who are they and how much do they contribute?

All funding is from the local authority

8) Please send me a copy of your criteria - eg which individuals are or are not eligible, what constitutes an emergency, any limits on how many times someone can apply to apply is for assessing applications. Please also provide any guidelines for council officers when determining applications.

All cases are treated on an individual basis by a small team of officers who discuss cases to ensure consistency.

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solution. To be eligible for support there would need to be children in the family and/or adults with a significant vulnerability and/or health needs.

Wherever possible those who are not eligible for support from the local authority are referred and/or signposted to local and community resources such as Foodbanks CAB and Credit Unions

9) How and where has your LWAS scheme been publicised over the past five years?

Within the community and voluntary sector and with local authority partner agencies and stakeholders

10) If you have existing reports or data showing a breakdown of applications by the nature of the need, or by location, please send me a copy.

None available

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