

Name of project or proposal (required): COVID Winter Grants Scheme to be known as the Connect4Communities Programme

Name of accountable officer (required): Suzanne Smith

Email (required): suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk

Department (required): Children's Services

Date of assessment (required): 27/11/2020

Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required): Overview

Describe the current service or policy:

The DWP COVID Winter Grant will provide £456,845 of funding to the Isle of Wight Council to support those most in need, with costs of food, energy, water bills and essentials. The grant conditions state at least 80% must be used for food and fuel, and no more than 20% on other items. Also 80% of the fund must be spent on families with children and up to 20% on other households including individuals. A variety of initiatives have been identified working with education establishments and local community partners to ensure households who are most vulnerable have access to food and fuel this winter.

Geographical impact (required): All IOW

Describe the proposed change:

The COVID Winter Grant is aimed at vulnerable families, particularly those with children and will offer financial support with food and energy bills this winter. Working with schools, colleges and early years providers, the proposed programme will deliver food vouchers and other financial support to a wide range of vulnerable families for school holiday periods between Christmas and the end of the financial year. We will provide direct financial support to households through Citizens Advice and other voluntary sector organisations working directly with vulnerable families and will establish a holiday activities scheme for February half term. Through grant funding, the programme will a range of community led projects to meet local needs across the Isle of Wight.

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform:

After notification, a task group formed with representatives from major stakeholder groups including the voluntary and charitable sector, Connect4Summer leads, Adult Health & Care, Children's Social Care, Early Years and Wraparound Childcare, and Communications. A variety of other stakeholders have been consulted so existing local provision and need could be identified and minimise risks in respect of funding duplication. Other consulted groups include head teacher groups, faith groups and local resilience centres/hubs. The engagement created the offers under a programme name of 'Connect4Communities'.

Age (required): Positive

Impact (required): Children, families and individuals who are vulnerable (eligible for benefits, allocated a social worker or in a low income setting) or find themselves in hardship due to the impact of COVID 19, this programme, with signposting from agencies, will help to identify and help those people to ensure they have access to food and heating this winter, as well as other basics which may be identified such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials.

Disability (required): Positive

Impact (required):

Children, families and individuals with disabilities and who are vulnerable (eligible for benefits, allocated a social worker or in a low income setting) or find themselves in hardship due to the impact of COVID 19, this programme, with signposting from agencies, will help to identify and help those people to ensure they have access to food and heating this winter, as well as other basics which may be identified such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials.

Sexual orientation (required): Neutral

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Neutral

Gender (required): Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Positive

Impact (required): Additional funding will be distributed to help those children, families and individuals who live in poverty or are in need of food, energy and other basic items, should have more access to help.

Rurality (required): Neutral

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional):

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes