

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS – CLLR. DEBBIE ANDRE, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDRENS' SERVICES, EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS

Title of Matter: Household Support Fund 3 and delegated authority to Director of Children's Services.

Decision maker: Cllr Debbie Andre, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills

Power(s) giving authority to make an executive decision: Section 9E (2) (b) (ii) of the Local Government Act 2000 and under all other enabling powers.

Decisions:

Proactive targeted schemes

Food Voucher scheme

1. That the grant of £507,000 to purchase food vouchers for residents providing support to several different cohorts be approved including:
 - (a) A one-off £500 food voucher for the 80 IWC foster carers, totalling **£40,000**. The aim would be for this voucher to be sent at the beginning of December to assist with costs leading up to Christmas, releasing household funds that can then be used towards rising utility costs.
 - (b) Two separate £50 food vouchers sent to Care Leavers over the age of 18. The intention would be for one voucher to be sent in the run up to Christmas and the other to be sent towards the end of January. This would total **£17,000** and benefit 170 care leavers.
 - (c) A one-off £150 food voucher to 900 households whose disabled children are in receipt of a gateway card. The aim would be for this to be sent direct by the voucher company during the month of January to help with post-Christmas costs and would utilise **£135,000** of the budget.
 - (d) A £100 voucher to around 1850 households in receipt of Housing Benefit only totalling **£185,000**. It is intended that this would be sent in February to spread support across the Island throughout the whole grant period.
 - (e) A one-off £100 voucher to around 1000 Island households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support but not on a passported benefit. This would total **£100,000**. The aim would be for vouchers to be sent during January.
 - (f) Two separate £100 food voucher to 150 adults with learning difficulties working with the No Barriers Team. This would total **£30,000** with one voucher being sent as soon as possible and the other towards the end of December. A further **£19,500** would be ringfenced for use by the no-barriers team for use if clients find themselves in financial difficulties with food, utilities or wider essentials.

Living Well and Early Help Services (LWEH) Mobile Hub

2. That approval be given for a grant of £15,000 to fund food supply for the Hub, making the service more sustainable, benefitting Island residents for longer.

Application based process

Support for food and utility costs

1. That a grant of £75,000 be approved and made available to Citizens Advice for the purposes specified in my report (attached).

Community Pantries

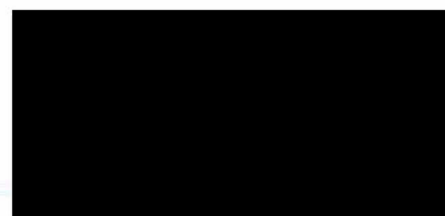
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve grant awards to organisations for the establishment of and delivery of three new community pantries across the Island up to the grand total value of £75,000.
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve funding of £41,000 to support the three existing pantries on the Isle of Wight with the purchase of food.

Community Grants

4. That a fund of £240,000 be approved to develop local initiatives where community and voluntary groups along with Town, Parish and Community Councils can apply for funding to support the community with food and fuel projects, either proactively working with residents already known to them or by offering an application scheme.
5. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve grant awards from an agreed fund of £240,000 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant (as set out in paragraph 5 of my report (attached) for targeted financial support for those in need over autumn and winter 2022.

Discretionary funding for schools

6. That approval be given for grant funding of £100,000 to provide schools with vouchers that can be obtained following requests from members of the public asking for support with everyday essentials such as food, school uniforms and other essentials.



Exceptional Housing Costs

7. That £10,000 be approved and made available to fund exceptional housing support as set out in my report (attached).

Administration and Communication Costs

8. That approval be given for funding of up to and including £51,000 to cover reasonable administration costs for all partners which will include limited staff costs, web page design, communications and marketing support.

Contingency

9. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve the spending of any contingency funding up to and including £17, 576.08 within the parameters of my report (as attached).

Date of decisions: 1 December 2022

Reason for decisions: To ensure that the funding for household support provided by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is spent by way of grants for the purpose for which funding has been given in a timely manner.

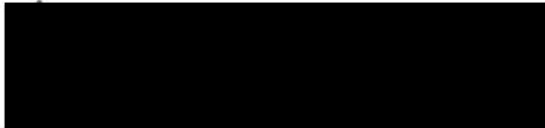
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the member when making the decisions: None

Record of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet member consulted by the Leader of the Cabinet which relates to the decisions: None

Dispensations granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflicts of interest: None

Background documents referred to: Report of the Director of Children's Services dated 21 November 2022.

Signed:



Cllr Debbie Andre, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills

Date of written record: 1 December 2022

