

Extension of Household Support Fund (April – Sept 2022)

The Household Support Fund (HSF) was originally provided to the Council by the Department for Work and Pensions to cover the period October 2021 to the end of March 2022. In the Spring Statement the Chancellor announced further HSF funds to cover the summer period up to 30 September.

The additional £5.4m Household Support Fund will complement the existing financial support measures available, including those from the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

All payments provided by the extension fund must be made by the end of September 2022.

Household Support Fund Grants - £1.2m

Households facing financial hardship can now apply to the Household Support Fund for help towards their food, energy and essential living costs.

Payments will be worth £64 per household plus an extra £20 will be provided for each partner/spouse and any dependent children.

A maximum of two payments will be available from the fund between April and September 2022.

As an example, the fund could provide a couple with two children with a payment worth up to £124.

This new money is in addition to the existing Derbyshire Discretionary Fund scheme, which allows eligible residents to receive up to three Emergency Cash Payments (ECP) over 12 months.

This means that an eligible household who has already received the maximum of three payments from the ECP scheme and is facing hardship this summer, could now apply to the Household Support Fund for additional financial support. Any Household Support Fund Grants previously awarded to a household as part of the first HSF period (Oct 2021 to Mar 2022) do not count towards the maximum two payments available from April to September 2022.

Full details about the fund are available on the Derbyshire County Council website. Find out more at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

How to apply

Individuals can call 01629 533399 to apply for support.

The county council's Children's Services colleagues are working closely with frontline staff, schools, nurseries and with voluntary sector partners to identify households facing financial hardship to maximise take up of grant payments. If you are a professional working predominately with children and families, please contact CS.HSFDuty@derbyshire.gov.uk for more information.

Other professionals will be able to refer claimants using an online form available on our website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/winterpressures.

Food support voucher – available from July 2022

Up to £1.28m is available to provide a one-off grocery voucher worth around £50.

The vouchers will be available for:

- children who receive benefit related free school meals
- children in an early years setting (nurseries and pre-schools) who receive the Early Years pupil premium payment (i.e those over 2 years old who are eligible for extra free childcare hours due to living in a low household income)
- care leavers aged up to 21 years of age.

Households eligible for the grant will automatically receive a voucher; no application is required.

Housing and Homelessness prevention support provided by local district and borough councils - £0.9m

Local district and borough councils have been awarded funds to help with council tax and rent arrears, homelessness and temporary housing.

Please contact your local district or borough council about any support available.

[Please note this is separate to the support households in Council Tax bands A-D will also be receiving, via a £150 Council Tax rebate through their District or Borough Council from a different government funding allocation.]

Pensioners £2.03m

Specific funding has also been earmarked to support low-income pensioners from the Household Support Fund. Further detailed information will be shared about this as soon as possible, and in the meantime the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund remains available to those who are need support as above.

Derbyshire County Council continues to work with partner agencies including foodbanks and emergency energy support agencies to ensure additional help is available.

For any further information, please email CS.HSFDuty@derbyshire.gov.uk

Information to partners 17.5.2022