



## Household Support Fund (1 April – 30 September 2022)

The Household Support Fund was a £500m grant administered by the Department for Work and Pensions and allocated to top tier local authorities to support vulnerable households with the cost of living. This was a similar fund to the previous Household Support Fund that had been offered, although it was not an extension of previous grants.

The allocation to Leicestershire County Council was £3,620,038.89. Conditions of the grant included that 1/3 of the allocation must be spent on households with children and 1/3 on households with pensioners. All of the money was spent by 30 September 2022. Further information on the fund is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/household-support-fund-doubled-to-help-most-vulnerable-tackle-cost-of-living>.

### Overall financial spend

The full allocation of £3,620,038.89 was spent on the Household Support Fund, broken down as follows:

- Free School Meals (schools and early year providers): £1,824,835 (62,127 awards)
- Food vouchers: £260,759 (3,282 awards)
- Fuel vouchers: £197,375 (3,137 awards)
- Pension credit support: £1,070,800 (10,708 awards)
- Pension warm home support packs: £86,077 (400 awards)
- Third Party Organisation spend: £208,140
  - Food: £77,001 (6,979 awards)
  - Fuel: £4,379 (78 awards)
  - Essentials linked to energy: £115,065 (664 awards)
  - Wider essentials: £11,695 (73 awards)
- Costs of administering the scheme: £114,000

### Detail of activities undertaken

- Free School Meals – vouchers for food were issued to children eligible for free school meals in schools and early years settings. £15 vouchers per week of the holidays were made available and were issued by the school or early years provider. £15 was available in May Half Term, and £90 for six weeks of support in the summer holidays. 62,127 awards were made in total.
- Food and fuel vouchers – vouchers for food and for credit towards pre-payment or credit meters were issued to people who were referred to LCC by third party organisations. Referrals for support with food and fuel vouchers came to the Council from local district councils, schools, faith-based organisations and charities. Trusted professionals could put forward clients for support from the HSF. Referrals were administered by First Contact+ within the Council's Public Health Department, enabling officers to ascertain if the household in question was in need of any additional support or referral into other Council services, such as the Warm Homes Service. The Council saw significant spikes in referrals into the scheme after the announcement of the increase to the energy price cap and the budget was overspent very slightly (managed through underspends elsewhere in the fund), indicating the scale of demand for support. The level of support varied according to how many

people were within the household, as dictated by the HSF policy. 3,282 awards of food vouchers were made and 3,137 awards of fuel vouchers.

- Pension Credit Support - the Council made a £100 direct payment via Paypoint voucher to all pensioners in the County who are in receipt of Pension Credit. This payment was made in September 2022 and over 80% of vouchers have been redeemed. 10,708 awards made.
- Further support for households with pensioners is provided through the creation of packs of essential supplies to help with emergency heating during the winter months. This is being coordinated by the Warm Homes Service in the Public Health Department. 400 awards made.
- Third party organisation spend included local foodbanks, which were helped with the purchase of food, and the Leicestershire and Rutland Re-use Network and Charity Link which were assisted with the purchase of energy efficient white goods and furniture to help households in need.

### Geographical distribution of awards

The spread of support through the food and fuel vouchers scheme was as follows:

#### Food

District	Spend (£)	No of vouchers
Blaby	£27,140	327
Charnwood	£54,580	691
Harborough	£29,799	344
Hinckley and Bosworth	£27,360	360
Melton	£42,260	541
North West Leicestershire	£54,500	705
Oadby and Wigston	£19,420	241

#### Fuel

District	Spend (£)	No of vouchers
Blaby	£21,629	308
Charnwood	£40,683	648
Harborough	£23,519	338
Hinckley and Bosworth	£21,567	334
Melton	£35,650	528
North West Leicestershire	£36,852	686
Oadby and Wigston	£13,207	231