



## Household Support Fund (6 October 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 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 as the economy opened up after the covid pandemic. This was a similar fund to the previous Covid Winter Grant Scheme and Covid Local Support grant 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 50% of the allocation must be spent on households with children. All of the money was spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Further information on the fund is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-500m-support-for-vulnerable-households-over-winter>

### 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): £1,556,905 (52,128 awards)
- Food vouchers: £285,460 (3,499 awards)
- Fuel vouchers: £210,238 (3,433 awards)
- Council tax support: £955,440 (15,924 awards)
- Children in Care: £138,584 (1,423 awards)
- Third Party Organisation spend: £312,099
  - Food: £75,635 (4,901 awards)
  - Fuel: £15,419 (228 awards)
  - Essentials linked to energy: £158,833 (503 awards)
  - Wider essentials: £62,212 (151 awards)
- Costs of administering the scheme: £161,313.33 (4.46%)

### 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 October and February Half Terms, £30 for the two weeks at Christmas and £45 at Easter (including an additional £15 payment). Although the Easter holiday fell outside of the grant period, we were given permission from DWP to make awards in advance of the holiday. 52,128 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. These included Citizens Advice, district councils, LCC colleagues, food banks, schools etc. Referrals were also made by the Multi-Agency Traveller Unit. The level of support varied according to how many people were within the household, as dictated by the HSF policy. 3,499 awards of food vouchers were made and 3,433 awards of fuel vouchers.
- Council tax support – working with district councils, award of £60 per household in receipt of council tax support as a credit on council tax account. 15,924 awards were made.

- Children in Care – continued to support this scheme within LCC providing assistance to young people leaving the care system. 1,423 awards were made.
- Third party organisation spend was with a number of voluntary and community organisations active in supporting local communities with food, fuel and essential items. They include: Leicestershire and Rutland Re-use Network and Charity Link for support with provision of household and white goods; The Bridge for food and fuel support and support to various foodbanks to allow them to purchase food for distribution. In total, these organisations made 5,783 awards to vulnerable households.

### Geographical distribution of awards

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

#### Food

<b>District</b>	<b>Spend (£)</b>	<b>No of vouchers</b>
Blaby	£35,370	383
Charnwood	£57,340	709
Harborough	£43,730	495
Hinckley and Bosworth	£26,450	349
Melton	£30,050	401
North West Leicestershire	£68,050	861
Oadby and Wigston	£18,430	219

#### Fuel

<b>District</b>	<b>Spend (£)</b>	<b>No of vouchers</b>
Blaby	£25,974	375
Charnwood	£43,729	702
Harborough	£35,251	491
Hinckley and Bosworth	£20,313	349
Melton	£22,266	403
North West Leicestershire	£45,082	826
Oadby and Wigston	£12,758	208