

## **Extension of Household Support Fund (April 2023 – March 24)**

The Household Support Fund (HSF) grant funding has been provided to the Council by the Department for Work and Pensions three times already to cover the periods October 2021 to March 2022, April 2022 to September 2022 and October 22 – March 23.

The funding has been further extended to cover the year 2023/24 - up to 31 March 2024.

The additional £10.808m 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 March 2024.

Information is being kept updated on the Council's website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)

## **Enhanced operation of the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund and Household Support Fund Grant for vulnerable families - £2.7m**

Households facing financial hardship can apply for help towards their food, energy and essential living costs.

The discretionary fund can award a household up to 3 Emergency Cash Payments in a 12-month period. The Household Support Fund monies will be used to increase the value of these payments, and also enable the fund to support more people.

Payments will be worth £64 per household plus an extra £20 will be provided for each partner/spouse and each dependent child. As an example, the fund could award a couple with two children with a payment worth up to £124.

Any Household Support Fund Grants previously awarded to a household as part of the earlier HSF periods do not count towards the maximum three payments available between April 2023 and March 2024, however, if a household has accessed Emergency Cash Payments in the past year in addition to Household Support Fund Grants then these may be taken into account.

The increased value of the discretionary fund payments will be available whilst the funding permits, but the provision may be ended before 31 March 2023 if the funding is exhausted.

Full details about the fund are available on the Derbyshire County Council website. Find out more at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://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 also working closely with frontline staff, schools, nurseries, children's health services and with voluntary sector partners to identify households with children who are facing financial hardship and maximise take up of grant payments via the Children's Professionals HSF Grants for Families referral route. If you are a professional working predominately with children and families, please contact [CS.HSFDuty@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:CS.HSFDuty@derbyshire.gov.uk) for more information.

Other professionals working predominantly with adult households will be able to refer claimants for grant payments from the fund using an online form available on our website at [Household Support Fund \(office.com\)](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/office.com)

## Grocery support vouchers - summer 23 and winter 24

Up to £2.356m is available to provide one-off grocery vouchers worth around £40 per eligible child/young person. This will be issued at two points during the year  
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 2 year old funding or the Early Years Pupil Premium for 3 and 4 year olds (due to living in a low income household)
- care leavers aged up to 21 years of age living independently.

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 - £1.8m

Local district and borough councils will shortly be 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.

## Pensioners and Adult Social Care clients £3.2m

Eligible households will be contacted to receive a one-off voucher to help with energy costs worth around £140.

The vouchers will be available for:

- pensioners (aged over 66) who are entitled to council tax support (means tested) with their council tax bill
- adults who are receiving home care support from the Council and are on a low income

Letters explaining the voucher and how to access it will be sent out in the post to eligible households in phases during the early part of 2024.

Information to partners 11.05.2023