



Policy for the distribution of Holiday Activity Fund and Household Support Fund Vouchers

Background

On 30 September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country would be able to access a new [£500 million support fund](#) to help them with essentials over the winter. This funding covered the period 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 inclusive.

The Household Support Fund was distributed by councils in England to directly help those who needed it most. The grant was distributed through small payments to support vulnerable households meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.

On 23 March 2022 the Chancellor announced an extension to the Household Support Fund. The fund was extended to 30 September 2022 with an additional £500 million of funding to be used by local authorities to support vulnerable households.

On 26 May 2022 the government announced a further extension to the Household Support Fund. The fund has been extended to 31 March 2023 with an additional £500 million of funding which will be used by local authorities to support vulnerable households.

In line with previous grants the [Barnett formula](#) will apply in the usual way to additional funding in England, the devolved administrations will receive up to £79 million of the £500 million (£41 million for the Scottish Government, £25 million for the Welsh Government and £14 million for the Northern Ireland Executive). It will be for the devolved administrations to decide how to allocate this additional funding.

On 17 November 2022, as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, the government announced an additional £1 billion of funding to help households with the cost of essentials. This brings the total funding for this support to £2.5 billion since October 2021. In England a further £842 million is being

provided to extend the Household Support Fund by a further 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The additional funding will be used by local authorities to support vulnerable households.

In line with previous grants the [Barnett formula](#) will apply in the usual way for funding for the devolved administrations. It will be for the devolved administrations to decide how to allocate this additional funding.

Local distribution

In Lincolnshire, schools are authorised by the local authority to distribute Holiday Activity Fund vouchers (HAF) and Household Support Fund vouchers (HSF).

HAF and HSF vouchers are distributed to the parents/carers of all children eligible for income based free school meals at certain points in the year.

In addition to children in receipt of income based free school meals, schools have the flexibility to offer HAF vouchers only (ie not HSF) to other groups of vulnerable children as long as the number of additional children does not exceed 15% of the total number of children entitled to free school meals on the school roll at the time.

In order to ensure that these additional limited vouchers are distributed fairly, priority will be given to the following groups of children on a first come, first served basis:

1. Children currently in care
2. Post looked after children
3. Children with social worker involvement deemed to be “child in need”

Policy agreed at a meeting of the FGB on.....

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Signed..... Executive Head

