

## **Proposed schemes for Household Support Grants**

**Allocation £2,262,463.11**

### **Scheme 1 Grant scheme**

Medway Council will support by way of supermarket vouchers that can be used for groceries and fuel vouchers for pre-payment meters. No cash payments will be made and vouchers can only be used for the purpose they are provided for.

To be eligible for a payment you must;

- Be aged 16 or over
- Be in demonstrable hardship. This will be demonstrated by completion of an income and expenditure statement and by the household providing their latest two months' bank statements for all accounts held. The statements must show transactions of income in and out.
- Not have access to any funds that can be relied on to meet the need you are applying for, and where you would be left with insufficient resources which would cause serious risk to your own, or your family's, health, or safety
- Have less than £500 in your bank account
- Be ordinarily resident in Medway.
- A household is as defined within Section 8 of Medway's Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

There is an internal application process for Medway Council Officers who, in the normal course of their work have identified a household needs support through the fund. The officer will declare the household is eligible to receive a payment from the fund.

- Be aged 16 or over
- Be in demonstrable hardship verified by a council officer in the normal course of their work (Verified by Medway Council Officers)
- Not have access to any funds that can be relied on to meet the need you are applying for, and where you would be left with insufficient resources which would cause serious risk to your own, or your family's, health, or safety
- Have less than £500 in your bank account (verified by Medway Council officers)
- Be ordinarily resident in Medway

The fund is available for those who are considered not eligible for public funds.

The fund can be used for:

- Food and home essentials
- Energy
- Water
- Essentials linked to energy and water such as white goods (Internal or specific applications only)
- Housing costs in exceptional circumstances but not mortgages.

Awards will be fixed as follows:

### **Food and household essentials vouchers**

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| • Single person               | £50  |
| • Household with two people   | £70  |
| • Household with three people | £105 |
| • Household with four people  | £140 |
| • Household with five people  | £175 |
| • Household with 6 or more    | £210 |

### **Fuel for those with prepayment meters**

A referral will be made to the Fuel Bank Foundation who will send a voucher for the value of £30 (summer rate) to prevent self-disconnection. They will also help to prevent the emergency occurring again.

### **Fuel for those without prepaid meters**

Will be met by providing customers with an additional household essentials voucher to the value of £50.00. If the customer is at risk of disconnection, the Council may make a direct payment to the fuel company.

### **Water**

Will be met by providing customers with an additional household essentials voucher to the value of £50.00.

Customers will be able to apply for assistance with all three items when they claim however, their application must show the need for the support.

What will not be awarded:

- any application made that is felt to be not an immediate need
- applications from those with sufficient income or savings
- clothing (except in exceptional circumstances where someone is fleeing their home e.g. flood, fire, domestic violence)
- Mortgages
- personal debts
- phone costs or associated expenses
- Help with Council tax, this is met through either:
  - The Council Tax Discretionary Relief scheme
  - The Council Tax Extreme Hardship Scheme (for those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction)
  - The Discretionary Energy rebate scheme

Essentials for energy, white goods and housing costs will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

**The scheme is administered to a fixed budget and the terms of the scheme could change during the year.**

**Costs £1,000,000**

### **Scheme 2 Pensioner Scheme**

A third of the total grand must be spent on pensioners.

We have a data share for Pension Credit cases being provided by the DWP at the end of April (approximately). We also know from our own data that we have 6387 pensioners on CTR. It is proposed that we make targeted awards using this data. However, as we do not know when the PC data share is available, we will ring fence this money and decide once we have a clear picture. Vulnerable pensioners will receive £150 energy grant if they are in band A to D in May additionally our discretionary scheme for the energy grant should award those in receipt of CTR in properties banded E to H so an award in June onwards would probably be welcomed and timely. It is proposed that this is achieved by using the Post Office Payout Service.

**Total costs £761,000**

### **Scheme 3 FSM Holiday Support**

As Medway is successfully running the Holidays and Food programme, Medway Go. There is no need to provide free school meal vouchers for every eligible child during the holidays. Vouchers could prohibit the take up of the HAF scheme. Therefore, it is proposed that the scheme covers only the holidays that are not covered by the HAF scheme. As the duration of the fund is April to September, the only relevant school holiday is May Half Term.

**Cost £165,000**

### **Scheme 4 Food charities**

It is proposed that we double the grants awarded to food charities allocating a fund of £200,000 to be distributed by the Head of Health and Wellbeing.

**Cost £200,000**

## Summary of spend

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Associated administration spend</b>	<b>Total</b>
Scheme 1: Household Support Grant	£1,000,000.00	£100,000.00	<b>£1,100,000.00</b>
Scheme 2: Pensioner grants	£750,000.00	£11,000.00	<b>£761,000.00</b>
Scheme 3: Free School Meals Holiday Support	£165,000.00	0	<b>£165,000.00</b>
Scheme 4: Assistance to local food charities	£200,000.00	0	<b>£200,000.00</b>
Communication, digital and miscellaneous costs	0	£36,463.11	<b>£36,463.11</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,115,000.00</b>	<b>£147,463.11</b>	<b>£2,262,463.11</b>