



COVID Winter Grants Scheme to be known in Hampshire as the Connect4Communities Programme – Further Initiatives

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Department: Children's Services

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Description of current service/policy

The DWP COVID Winter Grant will provide £2.89M of funding to HCC to support those most in need, with costs of food, energy, water bills and essentials. The grant conditions state at least 80% must be used for food and fuel, and no more than 20% on other items. Also 80% of the fund must be spent on families with children and up to 20% on other households including individuals. A variety of initiatives have been identified working with education establishments and local community partners to ensure households who are most vulnerable have access to food and fuel this winter.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The grant is aimed at vulnerable families particularly those with children for financial support with food and energy bills this winter. Working with schools, colleges and early years providers, this programme delivers food vouchers and other financial support to a wide range of vulnerable families for school holidays from Christmas to March 2021. We will provide direct financial support to households via CAB and other voluntary sector organisations working with vulnerable families; we will establish a holiday activities scheme for February half term. Via grant funding, we will also support the development of community pantries and other community led projects to meet local needs.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

After notification, a task group formed with representatives from major stakeholder groups including the voluntary and charitable sector, Connect4Summer leads, Adult Health & Care, Local Children's Partnerships, Supporting Families, Children's Social Care, Early Years and Wraparound Childcare, County Supplies & HC3S and Communications. A variety of other stakeholders have been consulted so existing local provision and need could be identified and minimise risks in respect of funding duplication. Other consulted groups include head teacher groups, faith groups and local resilience centres/hubs. The engagement created the offers under a programme name of 'Connect4Communities'.

| Statutory considerations | Impact | Mitigation |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Age: Positive | Children, families and individuals who are vulnerable (eligible for benefits, allocated a social worker or in a low income setting) or find themselves in hardship due to the impact of COVID 19, this programme, with signposting from agencies, will help to identify and help those people to ensure they have access to food and heating this winter, as well as other basics which may be identified such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials. | |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Disability: Positive</p> | <p>Children, families and individuals with disabilities and who are vulnerable (eligible for benefits, allocated a social worker or in a low income setting) or find themselves in hardship due to the impact of COVID 19, this programme, with signposting from agencies, will help to identify and help those people to ensure they have access to food and heating this winter, as well as other basics which may be identified such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials.</p> | |
| <p>Sexual orientation: Neutral</p> | | |
| <p>Race: Neutral</p> | | |
| <p>Religion and belief: Neutral</p> | | |
| <p>Gender reassignment: Neutral</p> | | |
| <p>Gender: Neutral</p> | | |
| <p>Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral</p> | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral | | |
| Other policy considerations | Impact | Mitigation |
| Poverty: Positive | Additional funding will be distributed to help those children, families and individuals who live in poverty or are in need of food, energy and other basic items, should have more access to help. | |
| Rurality: Neutral | | |

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information