



LEAD MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health,
Councillor Carl Maynard

MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2024 AT 10.30 AM

REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Member on 17 September 2024 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Disclosure of interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
3. Urgent items
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
4. Household Support Fund 2024 (*Pages 7 - 10*)
Report by the Director of Adult Social Care and Health
5. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER
Deputy Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
LEWES BN7 1UE

27 September 2024

Contact Sophie Webb, Interim Senior Governance and Democracy Officer,
01273 337495
Email: Sophie.Webb@eastsussex.gov.uk

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LEAD MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Councillor Carl Maynard, on 17 September 2024 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillors Denis and Hollidge, spoke on item 4 (see minute 15)

Councillor Denis spoke on item 5 (see minute 16)

11. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD MEMBER ON 23 JULY 2024

11.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2024.

12. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

12.1 There were none.

13. URGENT ITEMS

13.1 There were none.

14. REPORTS

14.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

15. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

15.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care and Health.

DECISIONS

15.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

1) Approve the procurement of a Community and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Development Programme from 2025;

2) Approve the allocation of up to £539,000 (per annum) from the Public Health fund, subject to confirmation of the available budget through the Council's budget setting processes; and

3) Delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health authority to take all actions necessary to implement the Community and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Development Programme.

REASONS

15.3 The co-development of the Community and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Development Programme is progressing well, with a framework that partners agree could form the basis for the new programme and could have wider uses and benefits.

15.4 The blending of existing programmes into the new programme would be best suited to the letting of 1 contract and be split into 5 lots based on District and Borough boundaries.

15.5 The indicative budget will be funded from the Public Health fund and represents a significant reduction in funding, contributing to the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process.

16. AWARD OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT

16.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care and Health together with exempt information contained in a later agenda item.

DECISIONS

16.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to agree that the Provider Selection Regime Direct Award Process C procurement route is taken to award the School Health Service contract for 3 years from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2027, with an option to extend for up to 24 months.

REASONS

16.3 Children and young people's health needs have increased since the pandemic, including safeguarding, mental health, developmental issues, school readiness, pupil absence and attainment levels. There are also common unmet needs across the system in relation to

continence, sleep, mental health, healthy weight, and in post-16 settings. The need for the healthy child programme that aims to bring together health, education and other main partners to deliver an effective programme for prevention and support is now of even greater importance.

16.4 The care delivered by school health teams continues to be an essential part of the response to and recovery from the pandemic, supporting families and communities through indirect impacts and 'hidden harms', especially in deprived communities and among the most vulnerable. The updated Healthy Child Programme is timely as the public health nursing system endeavours to work with the most vulnerable families. It is considered that the School Health Service under the current refreshed specification can respond effectively to emerging needs.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

17.1 It was RESOLVED to exclude the public and press for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

18. AWARD OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT - EXEMPT INFORMATION

18.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care and Health which provided exempt information in support of an earlier item on the agenda.

DECISIONS

18.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to note the exempt information in support of an earlier agenda item.

REASON

18.3 The report contained exempt information in relation to an earlier item on the agenda.

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Report to: Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Date of meeting: 7 October 2024

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Household Support Fund 2024

Purpose: To note the proposed use of the Household Support Fund for 1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025 and agree the development of a plan to distribute grant funding as set out in this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the proposed plan for the use of the Household Support Fund extension in East Sussex (1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025), as set out in this report; and
 - 2) Delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health authority to implement the plan, in collaboration with the Director of Children’s Services.
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1 Background

1.1 On 2 September 2024 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Treasury announced that the Household Support Fund (HSF/the Fund) would be extended for a further six months, from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025, with a further £421m of funding across England. Full details were received on 25 September, and guidance and conditions are expected to closely mirror previous rounds of HSF and the national amount is the same as it was for the first 6 months of 2024-25.

1.2 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) will be allocated £3,896,783.88 for the 6-month extension period, and payments will be made in 2 instalments in arrears after the submission of a Delivery Plan and an interim Management Information (MI) return and the final MI return at the end of the grant period to the DWP.

1.3 The new guidance and conditions, received on 25 September, will be reviewed and arrangements will be made to ensure any new features are accommodated.

2 Supporting information.

2.1 In previous rounds East Sussex has distributed HSF through a variety of partners, including District and Borough Councils and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, and all partners have been able to use all their allocated amounts to reach eligible beneficiaries. This approach is in line with HSF guidance to date. Therefore, it is proposed to continue to allocate funding for Household Support Fund in the following ways:

- Food vouchers (Huggg vouchers) for 2–19 year-olds eligible for Free School Meals, to cover the school holiday periods.
- Children’s Services teams that provide support to vulnerable families and children, administering funding directly to these to meet identified needs.
- Allocations to VCSEs to target individuals, including pensioners, and disabled people at risk of food and fuel poverty.
- Allocations to each of the 5 District and Borough Councils (D&Bs) to administer funding to households, including pensioners, who are known to be eligible and in need.

- Allocation to Food Banks and Food Partnerships to distribute to those in need.
- Allocation to our Warmer Homes programme.

2.2 The systems set up through previous Household Support Funds to distribute the funding are working well so it is proposed to continue to use these systems.

2.3 Over the recent years the cost-of-living pressures have grown and are now affecting people and families previously unaffected; this has meant that many HSF partners are seeing an increase in the people requesting or requiring support.

2.4 The HSF has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) which helps ensure people protected under the Equality Act are not disadvantaged and that all groups can access the Fund if they meet eligibility requirements. This will be reviewed in the light of new guidance.

3. Proposal

3.1 Distributing the grant to the same partners that East Sussex worked with last time (as set out in 2.1) and maintaining this approach will ensure continuity in the allocation of support to the full range of beneficiary groups and will facilitate swift and effective administration of the Fund.

3.2 The proposal this year is to build on previous successful delivery of the Fund.

3.3 The allocation of Hugg vouchers will mirror the need for the holiday period that fall in the 6-month period of this round of HSF. This includes:

- October half-term – one week at £15 per week per eligible family
- Christmas holiday –total of £50 for the two weeks per eligible family
- February half term – one week at £15 per week per eligible family

This support goes direct to families in need with limited administration costs.

3.4 In order to ensure the remainder of the Fund is allocated after careful consideration of the new guidance, resident need and in consultation with delivery partners, it is recommended that delegating decision making on the details of final allocations to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health.

Allocations Table - (1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Partner	Amount (£)	Note
Free School Meal eligible pupils Hugg food vouchers (19,400 pupils)	£1,552,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October half-term - £15 • Christmas holiday - £50 • February half-term - £15 £80 in total
Children's Services Teams	£300,000	Families in need
Delivery partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District & Borough Councils • Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) • Food Banks and Food Partnerships 	£2,044,784	Detailed breakdown to be decided with further consideration of new guidance
Total	£3,896,784	

4. Risks

4.1 The main risk with the delivery of the HSF is the ability of the Council to distribute all the funding in line with the DWP Guidance, especially given the short timescale for this extension. This risk is mitigated by using the existing partners and processes to administer the funding.

4.2 Any other risks identified will be picked up through the Household Support Fund Steering Group, which is made up of ESCC officers who represent different aspects of the local delivery plan and partners, who oversee the detailed plan for implementation and will continually monitor the new extension period.

4.3 As a national scheme there is increased scrutiny over the Council's decisions on how HSF has been allocated. To mitigate this risk, a communications plan will be developed that sets out the key messages and the timing of these messages, in line with HSF communication guidelines which are part of the guidance.

4.4 Utilising VCSE and other delivery partners to implement the HSF adds considerable value in terms of local community knowledge and an ability to engage with residents who may not be in contact with statutory services.

4.5 The proposed allocation of funds considers the increased financial pressures on all households and partner organisations over the Winter period, with all partners reporting a level of need that exceeds demand. ESCC will ensure best use of HSF by reviewing the exact allocations with partners in line with updated guidance documents and in consultation with delivery partners.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The announcement of an extension to the HSF provides an opportunity to support households with children, households with pensioners, households with a disabled person and other vulnerable households within East Sussex who are experiencing financial challenges and will be welcomed by partners.

5.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the proposed plan for the use of the Household Support Fund in East Sussex for the extension as set out in this report.

5.3 The Lead Member is recommended to delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health the authority to implement the plan

MARK STANTON

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Contact

Contact Officer: Mark Hendriks
Email: mark.hendriks@eastsussex.gov.uk
Telephone: 07701 394 501

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