

# APPENDIX 1

## Household Support Fund for Greater Manchester Combined Authorities summary of research:

Oldham council have used their funding in the following manner: providing food vouchers for children and young people, these consist of £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays, these do not have to be applied for as the council is working with schools and colleges to identify the eligible families and issue the voucher online. Vouchers will also be accessible via the Evouchers website but they cannot be exchanged for cash. Currently this support is only available until spring 2023 with Easter holidays being last.

Oldham council also have a Warm homes Oldham division which offer advice on how to reduce energy use around the home and use heating controls effectively, help with switching energy supplier or tariff, claiming the warm homes discount and registering on the extra care register, small energy saving measures (like draught-proofing, LED light bulbs and reflective radiator foils), oil filled radiators in an emergency no heat situation. In addition to this there are a variety of schemes that the council can refer people to, who are in need of extra help such as: Auriga services, BBC children in need emergency essentials, Evouchers, Food bank Oldham, Age UK Oldham, E.ON energy solutions.

In addition, the Oldham council is also carrying out a holiday activities and food programme which will also support those entitled to means tested free school meals. Also, they have put money towards food banks, energy price guarantee, energy bills support scheme, winter fuel payments, cold weather payments and local welfare provision. The household support fund also provides fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/ replacement service. The council is also working with Action together and other voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise partners to provide support in: warm clothing and bedding, support for those struggling but unable to claim benefits, essential items for the elderly including food, additional funding for Age UK to support older people with fuel payments.

Rochdale council are using the funding allocated to them in the following manner, food vouchers for the rest of spring up until the Easter holidays. These are £30 voucher per each eligible child. No application needed, vouchers will be sent automatically to children who are eligible, vouchers are usually for Iceland or Aldi but if posted to the resident's home address will be for Aldi. If you're a Rochdale borough resident who is 66 years or older and were in receipt of Council Tax Support on the 1 November 2022 a payment of £60 will be made to you from the Household Support Fund. Additional money has been put towards food banks within Rochdale in which residents can access food, essential supplies, cleaning products, nappies, baby food and sanitary products. Also, Additional money has been allocated towards Groundwork which offers a free service to help you with your bills, repair heating systems, and install energy efficiency measures, offer advice on energy-saving measures and more.

Bury council have stated that they were awarded the money to help low-income households experiencing financial hardship, for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Council are considering how to target certain residents who may need it the most. So far they have been supporting care leavers and ethnic minority groups with money. Alongside this, they are now accepting referrals from trusted organisations/support services in other to work with those who are most vulnerable.

Manchester city council free school meal (FSM) and holiday activity fund (HAF) sectors are to distribute some funding towards targeted people in receipts of housing benefit (HB) not in receipt of any other benefit, also they are putting larger amounts this time with £190,000 being put towards holiday activity fund, School holiday funding has a £15 weekly payment for each eligible child for the autumn and spring half term, money is distributed to households on a pupil basis by Manchester schools. The council is supporting care leavers with £10 a week for 26 weeks. Additional payments are also being made to foster carers.

In addition support for charity and voluntary sector- £500,000 has been provided to advise agencies and the third sector in the city, including the Manchester food partnership and support provided through Manchester care and repair. There is also targeted help those working or pension age households will receive £220. Pension age households who receive council tax support who do not receive pension credit will receive £150. This money can either be directly paid into people's accounts or they can be issued a post office voucher. A different division of council called Welfare provision scheme- support for energy and wider household costs.

Salford council are also providing support for their residents of which they can apply online for. The support is distributed by Salford City Council's Salford Assist team by way of a grant payment (via vouchers) to those eligible. The funding is not issued via a cash payment and is focused on food, fuel, and energy, furniture and white goods to residents in financial hardship. Salford Assist will also help with referrals to other agencies to ensure you are getting the help you need. Furthermore, funding was allocated to families on Free School Meal, families using Early Years Services, support for residents via Salford Adult Social Care teams, Welfare Rights and Debt Advice service, Salford Citizen's Advice and voluntary organisations, young people via Youth Provision Services, residents with rents arrears via Housing Benefits, residents via Community Food Schemes.

Stockport council household support fund, the support someone can get will depend on their individual circumstances, previously they administered vouchers but now the work is more targeted and what you might be able to get is: food bank referrals, Local Pantry subscriptions or grocery vouchers, prepayment meter top-ups, bus tickets, high street clothing vouchers, money to help pay for up to 5 weeks of living costs. There is also guidance and referrals to other services who can help you improve your finances. Stockport council have distributed £800,000 to 5 partner organisations to distribute to their cohorts via gifts like boilers, signpost for carers to get some money. Eligibility will depend on employment status, whether you have been made redundant recently, if you get certain benefits, if you have recently left a care home, hospital or prison.

Trafford council is also doing voucher based help, with families entitled to free school meals receiving a £15 per week voucher per child for the Easter holidays and £30 per week voucher for the February holidays. Application is done online with schools sending the eligible families an email with details on how to apply. This council's household support fund is a cash-first scheme but the case of someone not having a bank account they can receive a voucher. The support is for food, fuel and water bills, if successful the award will be credited into the person's account within 3 working days. There is also support for wider essentials, activities and services which will be provided by 6 community response hubs which are hosted by voluntary sector organisations located across Trafford.

Wigan council are doing payments or vouchers towards food, help towards energy and water payments, and other essential items. The people who will receive this support are: families who have children eligible for means tested free school meals, pensioners in receipt of council tax reduction, care leavers who have housing costs, households in receipt of council tax disabled ban reduction will be supported with the rising cost of energy. The application is completed online through the welfare support offer.

Bolton council household support fund is for those in need of help with food, gas, electric or household goods of which you can apply for from Local Welfare Provision. The local welfare provision support in many ways: help in a crisis or emergency, help with basic furniture and help with food or fuel only if you have a prepayment meter, with card or key as no cash payments are being made. Residents do not need to be on specific benefits or on any benefits at all to be entitled to receive this support. The Household Support Fund is also being used to provide grants to a range of community-based organisations via Bolton's Fund (Bolton CVS). These organisations will be providing a range of support across the Borough to residents in financial need. Those who are of state pension age and families with children eligible for free school meals will receive a voucher. There is also the support with referrals to a different service such as urban outreach and money skills.