

Neighbourhood Forum

June 2023

Household Support Fund
Emma Varnam

Background

- In Rounds 1 to 3, funding has primarily been used to support families with children eligible for free school meals during holiday periods.
- Vouchers are provided, via schools, to all eligible families ahead of each holiday period in the form of supermarket vouchers.
- Following the guidance set by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), an application based scheme has also been available for low income households to support with basic costs such as food, energy, utilities and related essentials.



Background

- The Household Support Fund has been disbursed by Tameside Council since October 2021 with funding provided in 4 'Rounds' to all Local Authorities.
- Tameside has received:
 - £2.2m for Round 1 – October 2021 to March 2022 (6 months)
 - £2.2m for Round 2 – April 2022 to September 2022 (6 months)
 - £2.2m for Round 3 – October 2022 to March 2023 (6 months)
 - £4.4m for Round 4 – April 2023 to March 2024 (12 months)

Round 4 funding – to March 2024

- Funding for a 12 month period has been confirmed, allowing longer term planning and support
 - 70% is being provided via schools to families eligible for free school meals
 - 27% is allocated to an application based scheme for residents not directly in receipt of Cost of Living payments, accessed via Navigators to ensure residents are supported to access the funding most relevant to them and wider support to build longer term financial resilience
 - 3% is being used for the staffing required to administer the fund

Communication

- Families with school age children will receive vouchers via schools directly.
- Older people (aged 65+) in receipt of Council Tax Support will be contacted directly and organisations such as Age UK, the Action Together community network and the Carers team will help to raise awareness.
- Outreach drop in sessions will also be planned in community venues and information will be provided via existing channels such as social media, Welfare Rights, Citizens Advice Bureau, Customer Services, Libraries and Helping Hands events.

Contact Information

- The team can be contacted via householdsupportfund@tameside.gov.uk
- The website <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/householdsupportfund> is being updated with the fund due to reopen in early July.
- Residents will be able to book appointments by phone, online or in person with Customer Service Navigators to discuss the support they need and to help them access funding relevant to their situation.