

New financial support available for households facing hardship this winter

A new scheme to provide financial support to households facing financial hardship is now available.

The £5.4m Household Support Fund will complement the existing financial support measures available, including those from the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

The money has been provided to the county council by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

All payments provided by the fund must be made by the end of March next year.

The Household Support Fund - £1.85m

Households facing financial hardship can now apply to the Household Support Fund for help towards their food, energy and essential living costs.

Payments will be worth £64 per household plus an extra £20 will be provided for each partner/spouse and any dependent children.

A maximum of two payments will be available from the fund until the end of March next year.

As an example, the fund could provide a couple with two children with a payment worth up to £124.

This new money is in addition to the existing Derbyshire Discretionary Fund scheme, which allows eligible residents to receive up to three Emergency Cash Payments (ECP) over 12 months.

This means that an eligible household who has already received the maximum of three payments from the ECP scheme and is facing hardship this winter, could now apply to the Household Support Fund for additional financial support.

Full details about the fund are available on the Derbyshire County Council website. Find out more at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

How to apply

Individuals can call 01629 533399 to apply for support.

The county council's Children's Services colleagues are working closely with frontline staff in schools, nurseries and with voluntary sector partners to identify households facing financial hardship to maximise take up of the payments.

Other professionals will be able to refer claimants using an online form available on our website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/winterpressures from week commencing 13/12/21.

Winter food and energy support voucher – available January/February 2022

Up to £1.35m is available to provide a one-off winter grocery and energy voucher worth around £50.

Households eligible for the grant will automatically receive a voucher; no application is required.

Housing and Council Tax support provided by local district and borough councils - £1.6m

Local district and borough councils have been awarded funds to help with council tax and rent arrears, homelessness and temporary housing.

Derbyshire County Council continues to work with partner agencies including foodbanks and emergency energy support agencies to ensure additional help is available.

For any further information, please email CS.HSFDuty@derbyshire.gov.uk

Information to partners 6.12.2021