

Decision to accept an allocation from the Household Support Fund for Children & Families

Date: 13/03/23

Report of: Head of Service, Corporate Parenting

Report to: Director of Children & Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- 1 This report sets out Children & Families intentions to spend its allocated amount from the Household Support Fund (hereafter HSF). This follows the key decision taken by the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment 16th November (ref D55804) to allocate a portion of the LCC grant to Children & Families.
- 2 The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to accept £1,000,000 from the Household Support Fund to be used to support Foster Carers in their care of Children Looked After on behalf of LCC.

What is this report about?

- 1 Leeds City Council has been allocated £7,098,648.16 from the HSF to spend between 1st October 2022 and 31st March 2023. The aim of the funding is to prioritise supporting vulnerable households with the cost of energy, the fund can also be used to provide support with food, essentials linked to energy and water, wider essentials, and housing costs in exceptional cases of genuine emergency.
- 2 The report of 16th November 2022 set out in detail how the majority of the funding will be used and agreed that Children & Families would receive an allocation of £1million to support households with children and young people.
- 3 Children & Families have decided to use the grant to support additional costs associated with providing foster care to our 800 or so Kinship and LCC Foster Carers. Carers have reported significant pressure because of fuel inflation, food inflation and increases in costs associated

with transport because of increases in energy costs. A proportion of carers provide care to children with complex health needs or longer-term disabilities.

- 4 The resources allocated from the HSF will support an uplift in the allowances paid to carers to cover the day to day costs of providing for children looked after's needs

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 The proposal will support the quality of care and living standards of the children affected.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 6 This funding will support LCC to provide care to children and young people looked after by the Local Authority.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 7 Impact is consistent across the City and not localised to any one ward or wards.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no resourcing implications in this decision other than the decision to spend the money allocated.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 9 There are no risks to the council in agreeing to spend this money.

What are the legal implications?

- 10 Leeds City Council will adhere to the guidance of the funding provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and will ensure monitoring requirements are met by council services and third-party organisations.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 11 No other options were relevant

How will success be measured?

- 12 Through payments being made and an increase in support to families identified.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 13 Implementation over the course of the current financial year (22/23).

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None