1a) Do you currently run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS)? This is the scheme – or schemes – introduced following the abolition of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses from 1 April 2013\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | ✓ |
| No |  |

1b) If yes, what is the name or names of your scheme?

|  |
| --- |
| Local Welfare Provision |

1c) If yes, what is your LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

|  |
| --- |
| £111,726  Please note that the spend provided is for the whole of the Gateway Service which provides a point of access for social care services, signposting, advice and information, welfare benefits checks and access to Social Fund direct support. It is not possible to disaggregate the elements relating only to the Social Fund as the council has taken a holistic approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable residents which, where required, includes supply of goods and services but also involves working with voluntary organisations to build resilience in the community, maximising opportunities to claim benefits and offering advice, information and signposting to relevant organisations who provide support. |

\* If you use the funding that would previously have been spent on LWAS in a different way, e.g. you use it to fund advice services etc. please use this space to summarise this approach and answer other questions as appropriate.

|  |
| --- |
| The funding is all used for the service  But included within our approach we provide a grant to the local foodbank to build on local resources and have a fund with a local credit union |

2. What was your annual expenditure on Local Welfare Assistance in:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | £1074492 |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | £1138183 |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | £1025997 |

3. How many local welfare assistance applications have you received, and by how many individual applicants (regardless of outcome):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of applications** | **Number of separate individuals** |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | 1645 | We do not record this |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | 1361 |  |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | 1824 |  |

4. How many awards and/or loans were granted in:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of applications** | **Number of separate individuals applying** |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | 689 | We do not record this |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | 610 |  |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | 816 |  |

5. Is the local welfare assistance you offer grant or loan based? (tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cash grants | No we do not provide cash |
| Cash loans | No we do not provide cash |
| Grants of in kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc) | We use the Paypoint system to provide utility vouchers  We provide some furniture and white goods |
| Loans for in-kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc) | We have an arrangement where a referral can be made to the credit union without the normal saving and membership requirements |
| Other (please give details) | Food parcels from the local food bank as arranged with the grant in place |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | **Number of applications** | **Number of awards given** | **Number of loans given** |
| How many applicants had children under the age of 18 living in the household? |  |  |  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 0-5 years |  |  |  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 6-10 years |  |  |  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 11-15 years |  |  |  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 16-17 years |  |  |  |
| How many applicants were aged 16 &17 years old e.g. care leavers, estranged young people, young parents (please put ‘not eligible’ if applicants must be aged over 18) |  |  |  |

We do not record the family breakdown so unable to answer this. All applications are assessed on an individual basis and records are personal to each applicant.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 how many applications were related to (please indicate all that apply): | **Individuals** | **Individuals with children living their household** |
| Food | 1335 | We do not record this |
| Energy costs | 400 |  |
| Furniture | Counted with white goods  29 |  |
| Other household furnishings (eg carpets/curtains) | We do not provide these |  |
| Electrical goods e.g. fridge, cooker | See Firniture |  |
| Clothing | We have an arrangement with a community resource who provide a voucher |  |
| Early years care e.g. nappies, pram, milk | Nappies baby milk wipes etc are counted within our food provision as all of the family’s needs are considered |  |
| Emergency travel expenses | None |  |
| Other (please list some examples as well as the number) | Support back into work when moving from benefits into work if no other source available  Support can include food utility vouchers and travel to work costs |  |

8. Is having children a factor that is taken into account when deciding whether to give an award? If yes, in what way.

|  |
| --- |
| Yes  The North Tyneside criteria to qualify for support is children in the family and/or significant health needs. And to be in immediate crisis  If there are children in the family they would never be left without food and utilities. If it was an ongoing issue additional support would be identified |

9a) Of those families with dependent children that received support from LWAS, how many have children who were considered a ‘child in need’, or were on a child protection plan when they applied?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The total number considered a ‘child in need’ or on a child protection plan | The total number considered a child in need | The total number with children on child protection plans |
|  |  |  |

This is not recorded as it would not influence the decision making as all families with children are supported if in crisis. The local welfare provision is delivered within social services, in partnership with colleagues to support families

9b) Following an application for LWAS how many children were referred for a child in need assessment?

|  |
| --- |
| This is not recorded but would be a minimal amount as referral and signposting to universal community service would be the preferred response to identify early help to prevent escalation of need |

10. How many of the total applicants were also referred to the following forms of support?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of successful applicants referred | Number of refused applicants referred |
| Debt advice | Not recorded collectively it would be in individual records |  |
| Welfare Rights advice |  |  |
| Immigration advice |  |  |
| Mental Health support |  |  |
| Family Support services |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |

11) What are your residence requirements for LWAS eligibility?

|  |
| --- |
| Living within the North Tyneside area |

12a) Are applicants required to be in receipt of out-of-work benefits to be eligible for support?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No | X |

Most of the applicants are in receipt of out of work benefits. There is an individual assessment for all applicants and short term support can be provided in all cases if the criteria is meet.

12b) If yes, do you have exemptions for these? (e.g. families with children, emergency grants in event of fire etc.).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

12c) If yes, please specify

|  |
| --- |
|  |

13. Is there a limit to the number of applications an individual can make in one year?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes (please give number) |  |
| No (there is no annual limit on the number of applications) | X |

14. How can an applicant submit an application for local welfare assistance? (tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Paper application |  |
| Online application |  |
| Telephone application | X  For those without access to a telephone they can go a customer services centre and they will facilitate a call to the team |
| In person |  |
| Through another agency |  |
| Other (please specify |  |

15.Which, if any, of the following sources do applicants need to have exhausted (or checked are not appropriate for their needs) before they can make an application for LWAS?

For crisis support all applicants will be assessed and there is not a universally applied expectation that they had exhausted other routes

For Homestart resettlement applications DWP Budgeting Loan would need to be exhausted first if affordable.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DWP Budgeting Loans |  |
| DWP advance payment of benefit |  |
| Local grant making charities |  |
| Food bank |  |
| Borrowing from a commercial credit provider |  |
| Borrowing from friends/family |  |