



Reference: FOI1847

Request:

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	X
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 2019 to 31st March 2020:

£1,143,015.

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.

1d) What is your prospective LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021:

The Authority is currently going through its budget setting process and the 2020/21 budget should be agreed by full Council during February 2020



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* 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:

1 st April 2018 to 31 st March 2019	£1,106,000
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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
1 st April 2018 to 31 st March 2019	1607	We do not record this

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

	Number of awards	Number of separate individuals applying
1 st April 2018 to 31 st March 2019	839	We do not record this



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5a. Have you reviewed your Local Welfare Assistance Policy in the last 6 years?

Yes	
No	X

5b. If no, do you have plans to do so?

Yes	
No	X

5c. If yes, please provide the date of when the review will take place:

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5d. If no, please provide the reason why there are no plans to review:

We have regular meetings hosted by the local authority attended by both statutory and voluntary sector partners. These meetings focus on the impact of welfare reform on the residents of North Tyneside and how through partnership working we can best support residents. LWP is a regular agenda item.