

Request:

1. What budget was set aside for your Council's Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in each of the following financial years?

2015-16	£1133076
2016-17	£1171192
2017-18	£1015235

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.

2. What was the total amount spent by your council on the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in each of the following financial years?

2015-16	£1025997
2016-17	£1138183
2017-18	£1074492

3. What was the total cash value of all non-repayable support provided via the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018?

See the note in 1

4. Does your council's local welfare assistance scheme provide support in the form of cash loans or grants?

The local welfare provision is and always has been a non-cash service. We provide goods and services.

We have given a grant to two local credit unions which enables people to access a loan without the necessary period of time of saving with the credit union before being eligible for a loan. Referrals to this scheme are made by the welfare assistance team following an appointment with CAB. At the CAB appointment clients are maximised benefits debt reduction and affordability assessed

5. Does your council's local welfare assistance scheme provide support in the form of vouchers and referrals to sources of non-financial support?

We use the Paypoint voucher system to supply utility vouchers to support applicants in immediate need of gas and electricity credit. We have provided a grant to the local food bank to support their infrastructure to supply food parcels.

6. How many applications for support were made to your council's Local Welfare Assistance Scheme in each of the following financial years?

2015-16	1824
2016-17	1361
2017-18	1645

7. How many applications to your council's Local Welfare Assistance Scheme resulted in support being provided in each of the following financial years?

2015-16	816
2016-17	610
2017-18	689

8. How many individual recipients of support via the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme were there in each of the following financial years?

We do not record the number of individual recipients supported.

When we request support with food for a family we record the number of individuals within the family. For example 1 adult and 3 children would be recorded as 4. As well as the total number of people supported with food the figures supplied include the number of cases where we supported applicants who received support but did not need food.

2015-16	1684
2016-17	1761
2017-18	1652