

Household Support Fund Extension

14 April 2022

Spring Statement

- On the 23 March the Chancellor announced the Government would be extending the Household Support Fund during his Spring Statement
- The expectation was that the Fund would run from 01 April – 30 September 2022
- The Fund was doubled, meaning a further £500m nationally

The Guidance

- The **draft** guidance was published on 1 April with a follow up webinar from DWP on 7 April.
- Criteria for the spend remain the same as before – primarily for energy, water and food support with wider essentials also permitted.
- The fund cannot be used to support Housing Costs except in exceptional cases of genuine emergency where existing schemes do not meet the exceptional need.
- The fund cannot be used for advice services including debt advice and cannot be used to support mortgage costs.
- DWP have exhorted local authorities to keep admin costs as low as possible although 'reasonable' admin costs are permitted.

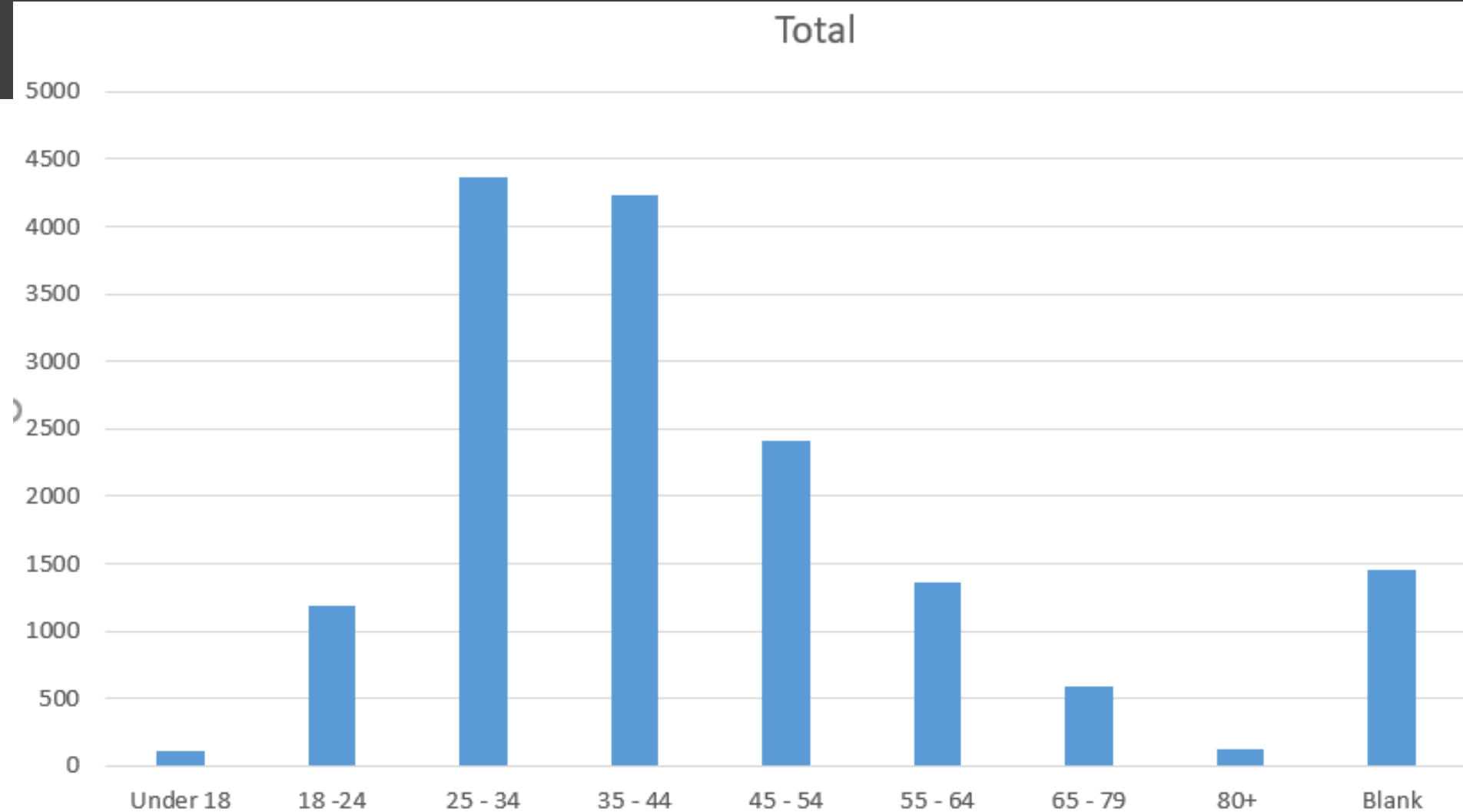
The Guidance

- The allocation for Cambridgeshire is a further £3.5m to be spent by 30 September 2022.
- DWP have required that a third of the funding is spent on families with children, a third on pensioners with the final third for households genuinely in need of support.
- The current position of DWP is that these thirds are based on eligible spend rather than allocation.
- We have not yet received the final guidance from DWP so there may be further changes.
- Local Authorities have asked that the DWP facilitate a wider conversation with ministers to develop a longer-term plan in this area rather than multiple short term, short notice funds.

Data from HSF 1

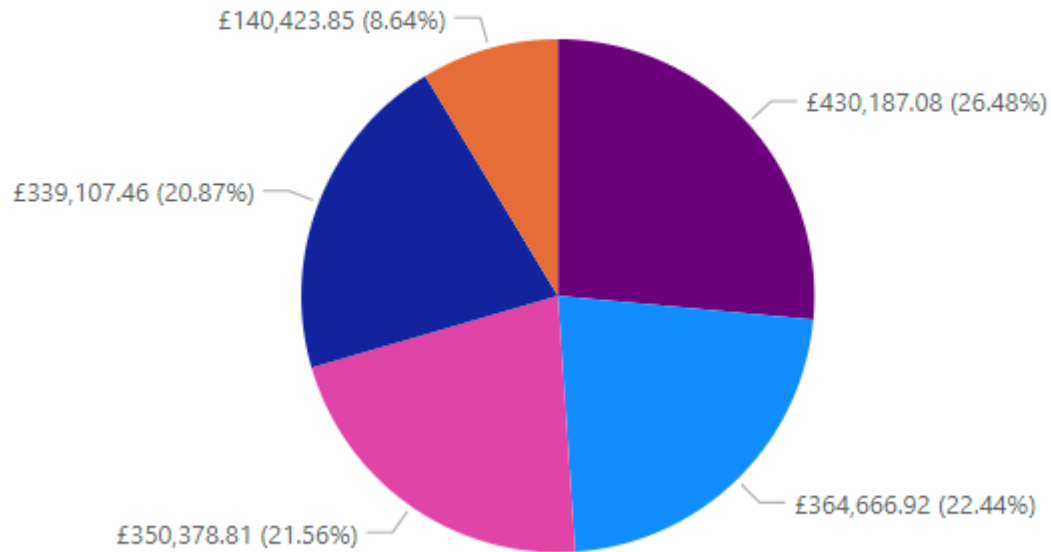
- 23,445 applications
- 15,806 people
- £1,903,543 spent on vouchers provided to applicants
- £115 average voucher value for funded applications
- 6,262 people in receipt of Universal Credit who have received a £20 voucher

Data from HSF 1

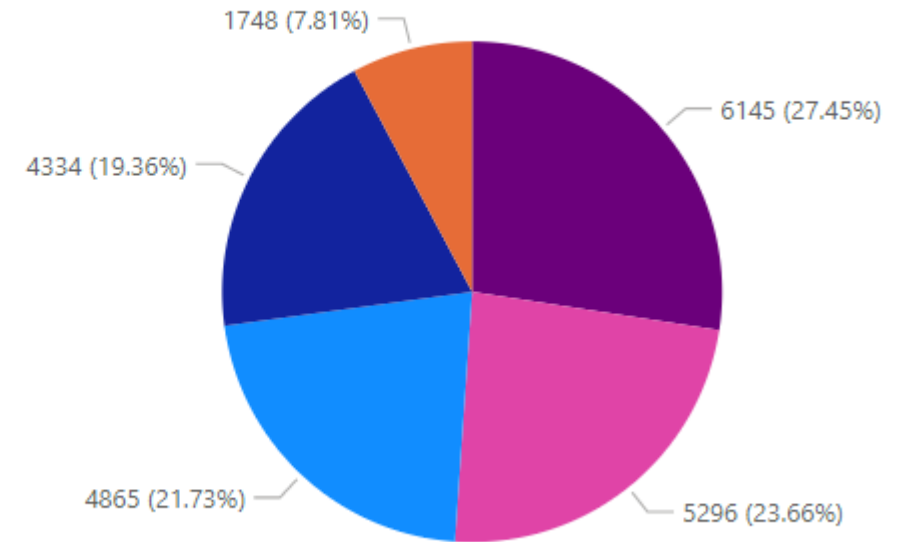


Data from HSF 1

Value by District



Number of Applications by District



District

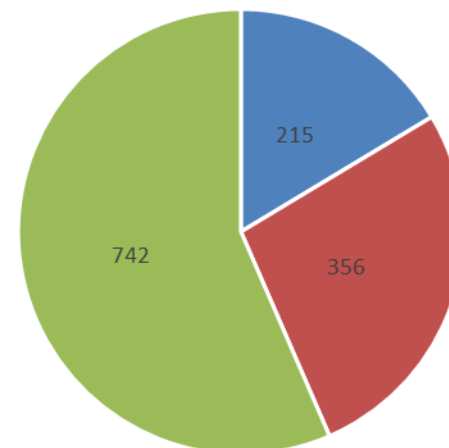
- Fenland
- Cambridge
- Huntingdonshire
- South Cambridgeshire
- East Cambridgeshire

Evaluation Data from HSF 1

- 1,313 responses to the evaluation survey (14% response rate)
- Every successful applicant with an email address was invited to respond.
- 97% of those who responded were willing to receive proactive contact about other offers
- Average score of 4.54 out of 5 for the ease of the application process

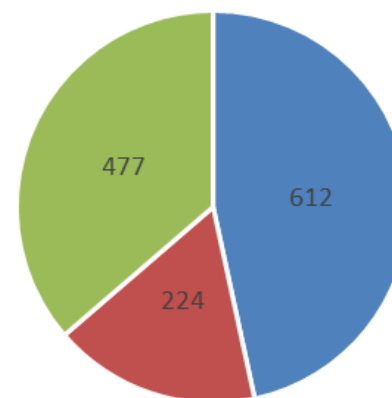
Evaluation Data from HSF 1

What led you to apply to the Household Support Fund?



■ Change in circumstances e.g. job loss ■ I met the eligibility criteria ■ Rising cost of living

Did you try and use any of the information in the Information Pack?



■ No ■ There was nothing relevant in it for me ■ Yes

Local Arrangement so far

- The work done to develop our local response ahead of the Chancellor's statement is still the right work and the right principles to take forward.
- However, the immediate priorities will need to shift due to the differences in the new scheme.

Impact

Based on the wording of Full Council budget motion impact on draw from reserves to be addressed at next Strategy & Resources Committee

Local Arrangement so far

- Cambridgeshire has committed to using some of the funding allocation to continue to provide FSM vouchers during school holidays.
- This will mean that the wider scheme will need to be heavily weighted towards pensioners to ensure we meet the DWP requirements for the funding.
- Previously allocated local funding is being weighted more towards Oct – Mar as we have no guarantee of further DWP funding at this point

Total Allocation	£3,581,424	100%
FSM Vouchers (Apr-Sept)	£1,960,000	55%
Indicative admin allocation	£358,142	10%
Wider Scheme	£1,263,282	35%
<i>Of which:</i>		
<i>Allocation for pensioners</i>	<i>£1,193,808</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Remaining funding from DWP allocation</i>	<i>£69,474</i>	<i>2%</i>
Total Wider Scheme	£1,263,282	95% for pensioners and 5% for other households