

SERVICE UPDATE

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| <u>Name of Function:</u> | Early Intervention and Community Empowerment |
| <u>Date:</u> | 25 October 2023 |
| <u>Title of Update:</u> | Cost of Living Support |
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This update provides committee with an update on current support for cost of living pressures including winter clothing.

In 2023/24, the Council allocated funding to the Scottish Welfare Fund, to enable continued support for medium priority applications. In addition, funding was provided to support the procurement of suitable food for distribution through Food Poverty Action Aberdeen and Fareshare networks. (An element of this is supporting the cash first approach to infant formula provision).

Support with energy costs continues through the provision of fuel vouchers, which was agreed by committee on 30 August 2023, from a remaining allocation of 2022/23 Cost of Living funding.

The school uniform grant can be used for the provision of winter clothing. A bid has been submitted to the Common Good Fund for the provision of a winter clothing grant. The bid is for £100k and will support up to 5000 children with a grant of £20, to be paid directly and automatically to families in receipt of school clothing grants. This will remove the need for applications and be consistent with the move towards cash first approaches to supporting people in poverty.

In addition, applications for winter clothing are now open through Cash for Kids, which provides a voucher for families, with referrals being made by a professional working with the family.