
SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Cluster:</u>	Corporate Services
<u>Date:</u>	30.6.25
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Cost of Living Support underspends
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Further to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee Meeting on 11 June 2025, this update provides information in respect of Cost of Living Support underspends added to the Summary of inputs, outputs and anticipated outcomes (Figure 4)

UPDATE:

Please see following page.

Figure 4 – Summary of inputs, outputs and anticipated outcomes.

INPUTS				OUTPUTS	ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES	
What did we invest in to mitigate against the rising cost of living and why?				What have we done so far and who have we reached?	Short term impacts	Longer term impacts
RESPONSE	Food £493,298	Funding spent: £493,298 Underspend: £0	The rising cost of living has put pressure on food banks, causing increased demand and falling food donations.	159 tonnes of food, equivalent to 378,480 meals distributed to 85 organisations across the City. 61 people supported through SAFE outreach with £232,490 client financial gain, and 500 weekly pantry shops.	People experiencing food insecurity are able to access good, nutritious food to meet their basic needs.	Food pantries and financial advice can help people break free from poverty by providing additional support that can help prevent future crisis.
	Fuel £130,000	Funding spent: £130,000 Underspend: £0	Fuel poverty can have a significant impact on people's mental and physical health over winter.	696 households provided with payment towards their fuel bills and tailored energy efficiency advice. 1,117 onward referrals to appropriate advice/support organisations. 82 households removed from fuel poverty.	People are able to heat their homes over winter to help ensure their general wellbeing.	Better living conditions can contribute to improvement in health outcomes in the long term.
	Crisis Grants £96,382	Funding spent: £96,382 Underspend: £0	Without a safety net, unexpected expenses can overwhelm a household, leading to difficulties in meeting basic needs and debt.	1,108 people received a Crisis Grant to provide immediate financial assistance to help them through an emergency situation..	Crisis grants act as a safety net, offering a temporary boost to manage immediate needs in a crisis, preventing further financial hardship.	Can prevent situations from worsening such as homelessness or hunger by providing resources to cope with immediate crisis.
	Family Essentials £40,300	Funding spent: £40,300 Underspend: £0	Providing family essentials including food, clothing and hygiene products directly mitigates the cost of living.	1,000 families supported with toiletries and cleaning products. 80 pregnant women supported with maternity clothes and hospital bags, 50 families fleeing domestic abuse provided with kitchen items.	Families can redirect their resources to more important expenses and improve their financial stability.	Supports better relationships with public services to provide early help and intervention to enhance children and family wellbeing.
EARLY INTERVENTION	Housing £100,000	Funding spent: £100,000 Underspend: £0	There are people that rent their home that get Housing Benefit or Universal Credit but still can't afford their housing costs.	146 claimants supported with shortfall in their local housing allowance or income related, preventing further escalation of harm to people.	People who are having difficulty paying their rent due to financial challenges are supported to prevent going into rent arrears.	Discretionary Housing Payments can help people address financial challenges and achieve housing security.
	Winter clothing £20,000	Funding spent: £17,340 Underspend: £2,660	The rising cost of living can make clothing difficult to afford and children in poverty can suffer not only physically but mentally as a result.	4,381 winter clothing payment awards of £30 made, supporting children to have the clothing they need over winter.	Children and young people are supported to purchase weather-appropriate clothing which removes stress and improves school attendance.	Providing winter clothing to children and young people in poverty can improve their self-esteem, wellbeing and improve test results.
	Family Experiences £10,000	Funding spent: £10,000 Underspend: £0	Families experiencing financial hardship can struggle to afford cultural events, which offer valuable enrichment and mental health benefits, due to the cost of living.	67 families provided with a Christmas Panto Package to give them the opportunity to visit the theatre and enjoy the festive panto.	Families can enjoy a positive and enriching experience at a time when expenses tend to rise, helping alleviate the stress of the cost of living.	Cultural experiences can have lasting positive impacts including improved well-being, improved confidence, enhanced social skills, and increased aspirations.
PREVENTION	Telecare £20,020	Funding spent: £1,022 Underspend: £18,998	Telecare helps elderly and disabled people live independently and safely at home. However, digital poverty can impact access to telecare and health services.	1 low income family supported to purchase telecare equipment. Identification of individuals in need ongoing.	Older people and people with disabilities that can't afford telecare are assisted and kept safe in their home over winter when there is a greater risk of harm.	Benefit checks are built into the application process to ensure people receive the support they are entitled to and supported to stay in their homes for longer.
	Power of Attorney £10,000	Funding spent: £1,400 Underspend: £8,600	Lack of Power of Attorney lacks in delayed discharge. This is often due to the cost of putting it in place. 80% of cases are from SIMD 1.	4 low income families living in SIMD 1 that are not eligible for legal aid supported to arrange Power of Attorney. Identification of individuals in need ongoing.	Older people living in Aberdeen's most deprived communities receive financial support with putting in place Power of Attorney.	Reduction in delayed discharges, minimising risk of further infection, loss of mobility and independence.
	Child Care Costs £60,000	Funding spent: £31,350 Underspend: £28,650	Childcare costs can be a significant expense for parents and the cost of living crisis can put some parents off going back to work.	16 families supported with childcare costs enabling 7 parents into employment, 4 parents to stay in employment, and supporting another parent to sustain their education.	Support with childcare costs to help parents get back into work, stay employed and earn more.	Keeping parents in the workforce when their children are young can help generate economic growth and boost the local economy.
	Poverty Awareness £20,000	Funding spent: £20,000 Underspend: £0	Raising awareness of poverty is essential to help people understand the effects on individuals and communities and think about how they can help.	4 short films and 3 podcasts produced to raise awareness of challenges for people impacted by poverty, to share widely at events. 5 people trained in podcasting and interview techniques.	Podcasts and short films capturing the lived experience of people in poverty shown during Challenge Poverty Week 2024 to raise awareness.	Increased support from all sectors in reducing stigma, increasing uptake of support available, and working together to prevent poverty,