

2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW
1 July 2022
Our ref: 8318127

Thank you for your request received on 16 June 2022, for the following information:

These questions specifically pertain to your local welfare assistance/provision (LWA) scheme, which you call 'Barnet Local Welfare Assistance Fund ', explained here on your website: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-financial-advice/grants-and-funding/apply-barnet-local-welfare-assistance-fund>

What was the total spend on your scheme in 2021/22?

- 1. How many applications did you receive to this scheme in 2021/22?**
- 2. How many applications were successful in 2021/22?**
- 3. How much was spent on the provision of furniture and/or white goods in 2021/22? This includes both cash, vouchers and the provision of the item itself.**
- 4. What percentage of your 2021/22 spend was funded by your core spending power (as opposed to additional Govt. funding provided via Section 31 grants, such as the Household Support Fund)**
- 5. What is your budget for 2022/23?**
- 6. Did this scheme pre-exist the Covid-19 pandemic?**

Part B: Household Support Fund

These questions specifically pertain your allocation of the £500m Household Support Fund. For clarity purposes we are referring to the first tranche of the fund announced by the Government here. This fund was announced in the autumn 2021 and had to be spent by the 31 March 2022.

- 7. How much were you allocated from the Household Support Fund in 2021/22?**
- 8. How much of this fund did you spend in 2021/22?**
- 9. Could anyone apply to receive support from this fund or was it distributed based on certain criteria (e.g. eligibility to FSM)?**
- 10. Please provide approximate percentages indicating what this fund was spent on**
 - a. Targeted direct grants to recipients of the following benefits (please specify these below)**
 - i. Free School Meals %**
 - ii. Universal Credit %**
 - iii. Council Tax Support %**
 - iv. Tax Credit %**

- v. Discretionary Housing Payments %
- vi. Other (please specify) %
- b. Additional funding for your LWA scheme (as set out in Part A) %
- c. Funding for third party Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations %
- d. A new scheme to which members of the public could apply for support, which ran alongside your existing LWA scheme %

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

These questions specifically pertain to your local welfare assistance/provision (LWA) scheme, which you call 'Barnet Local Welfare Assistance Fund ', explained here on your website:
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-financial-advice/grants-and-funding/apply-barnet-local-welfare-assistance-fund>

What was the total spend on your scheme in 2021/22?

£540,631.87

1. How many applications did you receive to this scheme in 2021/22?

2942

2. How many applications were successful in 2021/22?

2165

3. How much was spent on the provision of furniture and/or white goods in 2021/22? This includes both cash, vouchers and the provision of the item itself.

£194,242

4. What percentage of your 2021/22 spend was funded by your core spending power (as opposed to additional Govt. funding provided via Section 31 grants, such as the Household Support Fund)

Our total Crisis Fund spend in 2021/22 was £540,631.87. Of this £250k was funded by the Household Support Fund. This means £290,631.87 was funded from LBB's core spending power, equating to 53.76%

5. What is your budget for 2022/23?

There is no budget set aside for the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, but where a need is identified provision has been made for funds to be made available from the reserve to meet demand.

6. Did this scheme pre-exist the Covid-19 pandemic?

Yes

Part B: Household Support Fund

These questions specifically pertain your allocation of the £500m Household Support Fund. For clarity purposes we are referring to the first tranche of the fund announced by the Government here. This fund was announced in the autumn 2021 and had to be spent by the 31 March 2022.

7. How much were you allocated from the Household Support Fund in 2021/22?

£2,234,877.89

8. How much of this fund did you spend in 2021/22?

£2,234,877.89

9. Could anyone apply to receive support from this fund or was it distributed based on certain criteria (e.g. eligibility to FSM)?

Criteria are households with children financially impacted by Covid/ Covid recovery/ low income families - families identified through those who work closely with them such as early years settings/ schools/ health visitors/ social workers.

The criteria for households with children is at [Household Support Fund | Barnet Council](#)

10. Please provide approximate percentages indicating what this fund was spent on

a. Targeted direct grants to recipients of the following benefits (please specify these below)

i. Free School Meals %

ii. Universal Credit %

iii. Council Tax Support %

iv. Tax Credit %

v. Discretionary Housing Payments %

vi. Other (please specify) %

b. Additional funding for your LWA scheme (as set out in Part A) %

c. Funding for third party Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations %

d. A new scheme to which members of the public could apply for support, which ran alongside your existing LWA scheme %

We allocated 50% of the overall funding to households with children, identifying the cohort through schools and Early Years settings and direct contact from families. The fund is not a replication of FSM as it is for households with children who would otherwise struggle to pay for food and energy costs and so no percentage breakdowns in the list given were recorded.

The current fund criteria has changed and will identify FSM and non FSM children going forward.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.