**Nottinghamshire County Council – Covid Winter Support Grant**

FOI (26.4.21)

1. **How did you distribute the COVID Winter Grant to vulnerable families, i.e. cash, food parcels or retail supermarket vouchers?**

* Supermarket vouchers in the main
* Vulnerable adults were given a food package or voucher.
* Fuel/energy and water vouchers to support payment of these bills.

1. **Did you use this grant to distribute financial support to families of children eligible for free school meals?**

* Yes – vouchers were provided during the holidays and some schools chose to create food parcels.

1. **How many children were eligible for Free School Meals and how many children claimed financial support via the grant scheme?**

* 23,649 (school aged)

1. **Did you use the grant to distribute support to other vulnerable families / individuals and if so, which groups, i.e. homeless etc.?**

* Yes
* Funded 2-year olds (low income families)
* 3- and 4-year olds eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium.
* Adults experiencing or fleeing domestic abuse
* Young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who were also eligible for Free School Meals
* Expectant first-time parents
* Care leavers aged 19-25
* Homeless / insecure housing
* Older vulnerable people
* Adults experiencing debt/money worries
* Adults unable to pay for heating and/or water bills
* New Universal Credit applicants waiting for their first payment

1. **If using supermarket vouchers**

**(a) which supplier(s) did you use to distribute the vouchers?**

* Huggg, and schools had a choice to use a different voucher scheme if they preferred.

**(b) how did you choose a supplier? –**

* we reviewed a range of voucher schemes and used feedback from schools and other councils who had already been using voucher companies.
* This scheme was free for the council to use so 100% of funding allocated for vouchers was given to families.

**(c) what were your top 3 mandatory requirements for the service?**

* no cost to the council, speed, choice of supermarket, ability to send e-vouchers and hard copies, GDPR (i.e. not necessary to share personal information of applicants with Huggg)

**(d) did you coordinate the ordering to all beneficiaries/recipients, or was access delegated to schools to administer and order?**

* The council co-ordinated the ordering for vouchers during term time.
* Schools used their own processes for school holiday periods (using a range of voucher companies)

**(e) did you enter into a direct contract with the supplier or call off via a framework?**

We had our own contract with Huggg.

**(f) when does your contract end?**

* To be extended to the 31.3.22 to enable us to include the new Covid Local Support Grant and subsequent scheme that may arise if there are new lock down restrictions in place.

1. **If Government funding or a grant extension is not in place for May half-term or summer holidays, will you continue to operate and fund the scheme?**

* May half term will now be funded through the new Covid Local Support Grant
* Summer will be covered through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme for school aged children and young people.

**7. Which role(s) and job functions manage the contract for this service?**

* Programmes and Project Team
* Finance team
* Head of Early Childhood Services