

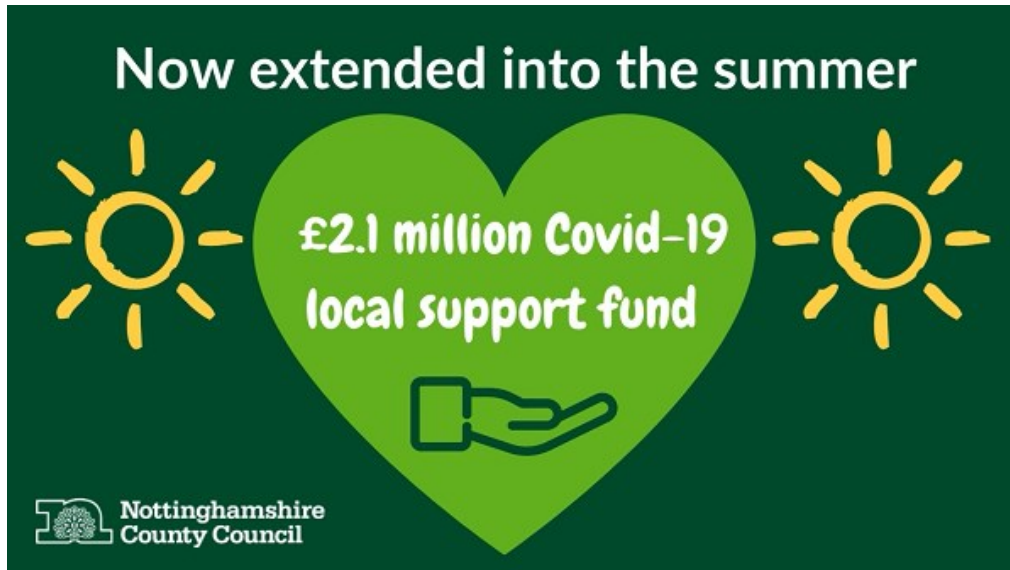
## Covid Local Support Grant Scheme – Briefing for Educational Establishments in Nottinghamshire

30.6.21

The objective of the Covid Local Support Grant Scheme is to provide support to families with children or young people, particularly those who have been affected by the pandemic where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

The Covid Local Support Grant has been extended by the Department for Work and Pensions to cover the summer holidays. Nottinghamshire County Council has decided to use this funding to provide supermarket vouchers for children and young people eligible for free school meals or relevant funded childcare. All of the budget will be used to provide this support so other elements of the grants scheme have now ended.

Children and young people of school age who receive a voucher can also access the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Scheme (more information at [Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)).



### Who is eligible?

The extension of the Covid Local Support Grant will support families with children. The definition of a child for this grant is defined by the Department for Work and Pensions is any person:

- who will be under the age of 19 as at 30 September 2021 or
- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit (for example, Child Benefit) is paid or free school meals are provided; or

This definition includes eligible young people who live on his or her own that fit the age criteria above.

The following groups will be provided a supermarket voucher:

- Children and young people receiving benefits-related free school meals who are on roll at your school (this includes children in key transition groups e.g. infant to junior and primary to secondary transfer and those statutory leavers who are due to leave at the end of July, years 11 and 13).
- 2 year olds accessing funded childcare
- 3 and 4 year olds accessing the Early Years Pupil Premium (this includes 4 year olds due to start school in September)

### **How much will children and young people receive over summer?**

- All children authorised to receive benefits-related FSM are entitled to a voucher worth £15 per week (to cover the 5-week holiday).
- A small number of Academy Trusts have a 6-week holiday so we will provide vouchers for this period as they did not have a 2-week half term in October 2020.
- Schools with early years provision will also be provided £15 per eligible child per week (5 weeks).
- We are aware that most schools will be closed during the summer, so we ask that you issue 1 voucher worth £75 per child before the end of term (£90 for those with a 6-week holiday).
- You will be asked to include all children and young people authorised to receive FSM including those who live outside of Nottinghamshire but attend your school/setting. Children and young people from Nottinghamshire who attend educational establishments in neighbouring local authority areas will receive support from a different authority although it is unclear how much they will receive and what the process will be yet.

### **Process for Schools**

- Schools will be asked to complete an online monitoring form as you have done for previous school holidays to confirm your spend. This will be available from the 19<sup>th</sup> July - you will have to submit this by the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- We ask that you use your existing systems to issue vouchers as you have done previously.

- Schools will receive funds for any children due to leave school including those leaving Year 6, Years, 11 and 13. The school where the child/young person was on roll will receive the funding.
- Schools with early years provision will also receive funding for eligible children in your payment from the council.
- School INSET days will be included in the payment if they fall within the 5 week holiday.
- The FSM count for the summer holiday period will be based on the number of children authorised for benefits-related free school meals on roll at your school on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is important you check the portal ahead of this date to ensure that all children eligible for FSM are included. If there are any additional children who you consider eligible for FSM that are not listed on the portal, please contact the business support team at [admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk).
- Academies will receive payments within 10 working days following 9 July and maintained schools will receive this funding in the July cash tranche. Maintained schools will be able to look up the value of the funding before then using the FI035 Virement Values report in BMS. If any maintained school thinks this will create a cashflow problem or problem with their Barclays credit card limit they should contact the School Finance team on 0115 9772211.

## **Process for Alternative Education Providers**

- The council holds the data for which children and young people are eligible and will send e-vouchers directly to parents.
- Children and young people attending Alternative Education providers will receive up to £15 per eligible child per week (5 weeks) depending on the hours a young person attends their provision as with previous holidays.
- The team within the council will send e-vouchers to the parents/carers of eligible children and young people.

## **Process for FE Colleges**

- FE Colleges will be asked to request vouchers for eligible children and young people accessing their setting.
- FE Colleges will receive £15 per eligible child per week (5 weeks).

- FE Colleges should email should email [CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk) to confirm how many vouchers they need by the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 if not sooner. We will send them unique weblinks to pass to parents.

## **Process for Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Early Years Provision**

- PVI providers will be able to check which children are eligible using the Early Years portal and instructions will be sent to them separately.
- They will be asked to contact the team in NCC to request vouchers and we will send them unique weblinks to pass to eligible parents.
- PVI settings will receive £15 per eligible child per week (5 weeks).
- PVI settings should email [CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk) to confirm how many vouchers they need by the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 if not sooner.

### **Queries**

If you have any queries about this scheme, please email [CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:CovidLocalSupportGrant@nottscc.gov.uk)

Or check out our webpage for professionals [Covid Local Support Grant: Information for Professionals Supporting households struggling financially because of COVID-19 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

### **Other Support for Families**

If a family you are working with is in urgent need of support, they may be able to access support through the [Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub](#). To speak to a customer service representative about this, you can call: 0300 500 8080 (open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

### **Meal and Recipe Ideas for Families**

We have worked with the School Meals Service and 'Your Health, Your Way' to create some recipe cards and meal ideas that could be shared with families. Please use these if parents are struggling with ideas for healthy low-cost meals. They are available to access from

[Covid Local Support Grant: Information for members of the public | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

## Advice and Support for Families

We are aware that some families have come to expect a voucher to cover the school holidays and this may be the last time this is available to them. We are keen to make sure that families also get the help they need to help with budgeting, debt, employment etc so we have included some useful links to our webpage and included them below.

- [Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub](#)
- [Notts Help Yourself: financial and legal advice](#)
- [The Money Advice Service: free and impartial money advice](#)
- [Citizens Advice](#)
- [Money Sorted](#)
- [Money Advice: Notts Help Yourself](#)
- [Work and Volunteering: Notts Help Yourself](#)