



20 September 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1226/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request / Response:

I submit the following request for information under the Freedom of Information legislation regarding your local authority's provision of Local Welfare Assistance Schemes, or similar.

1a. Do you currently run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS)? This is the scheme – or schemes – introduced following the abolition of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses from 1 April 2013*

Answer: Yes

1b. If yes, what is the name or names of your scheme?

Answer: Discretionary Crisis Support Fund

1c. If yes, what is your LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019?

Answer: £25,000

* If you use the funding that would previously have been spent on LWAS in a different way, e.g. you use it to fund advice services etc. please use this space to summarise this approach and answer other questions as appropriate.

Answer: Not Applicable

2. What was your annual expenditure on Local Welfare Assistance in:

a. 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Answer: £11,100

b. 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

Answer: £12,060

c. 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

Answer: £10,050

3. How many local welfare assistance applications have you received, and by how many individual applicants (regardless of outcome):

Answer:

| | Number of applications | Number of separate individuals |
|---|------------------------|--|
| 1 st April 2017 to 31 st March 2018 | 125 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| 1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017 | 190 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| 1 st April 2015 to 31 st March 2016 | 205 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

4. How many awards and/or loans were granted in:

Answer:

| | Number of applications | Number of separate individuals applying |
|---|------------------------|--|
| 1 st April 2017 to 31 st March 2018 | 75 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| 1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017 | 145 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| 1 st April 2015 to 31 st March 2016 | 142 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

5. Is the local welfare assistance you offer grant or loan based? (tick all that apply):

Answer:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Cash grants | Yes |
| Cash loans | Yes |
| Grants of in kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc) | Yes |
| Loans for in-kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc) | Yes |
| Other (please give details) | Foodbank vouchers |

6. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018:

Answer:

| | Number of Applications | Number of awards given | Number of loans given |
|---|--|--|--|
| How many applicants had children under the age of 18 living in the household? | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 0-5 years | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 6-10 years | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 11-15 years | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 16-17 years | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| How many applicants were aged 16 & 17 years old e.g. care leavers, estranged young people, young parents (please put 'not eligible' if applicants must be aged over 18) | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

7. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 how many applications were related to (please indicate all that apply):

Answer:

| | Individuals | Individuals with children living in their household |
|---|--|--|
| Food | 52 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Energy costs | 26 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Furniture | 10 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Other household furnishings (eg carpets/curtains) | 0 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Electrical goods e.g. fridge, cooker | 10 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Clothing | 1 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Early years care e.g. nappies, pram, milk | 0 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Emergency travel expenses | 10 | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Other (please list some examples as well as the number) | 17 (Removal expenses, Overnight accommodation, Bedding, Footwear, Laundry). | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

8. Is having children a factor that is taken into account when deciding whether to give an award? If yes, in what way.

Answer: A decision to make an award is based on meeting a need that unless provided would severely disadvantage the applicant or a member of their household.

9a. Of those families with dependent children that received support from LWAS, how many have children who were considered a 'child in need', or were on a child protection plan when they applied?

Answer:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| The total number considered a 'child in need' or on a child protection plan | The total number considered a child in need | The total number with children on child protection plans |
| Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

9b. Following an application for LWAS how many children were referred for a child in need assessment?

Answer: Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

10. How many of the total applicants were also referred to the following forms of support?

Answer: All applicants are signposted to Citizens Advice Bureau as a matter of course.

| | Number of successful applicants referred | Number of refused applicants referred |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Debt advice | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Welfare Rights advice | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Immigration advice | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Mental Health support | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Family Support services | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |
| Other (please specify) | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. | Rutland County Council does not hold this information. |

11. What are your residence requirements for LWAS eligibility?

Answer: Applications are accepted from residents of Rutland.

12a. Are applicants required to be in receipt of out-of-work benefits to be eligible for support?

Answer: Applicants should be in receipt of out of work benefits or on a low income, applicants need to demonstrate that they or a member of their household would suffer severe health and/or safety problems if remedial support were not provided.

12b. If yes, do you have exemptions for these? (e.g. families with children, emergency grants in event of fire etc.).

Answer: Please refer to Question 12a.

12c. If yes, please specify

Answer: Please refer to Question 12a.

13. Is there a limit to the number of applications an individual can make in one year? If yes please give number?

Answer: Yes. 3 applications may be made per 12 month period.

14. How can an applicant submit an application for local welfare assistance? (tick all that apply):

Answer:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Paper application | Yes |
| Online application | No |
| Telephone application | No |
| In person | Yes |
| Through another agency | Yes |
| Other (please specify) | No |

15. Which, if any, of the following sources do applicants need to have exhausted (or checked are not appropriate for their needs) before they can make an application for LWAS?:

Answer: Applicants should exhaust all other available sources of support before submitting an application.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| DWP Budgeting Loans | Yes, if applicable |
| DWP advance payment of benefit | Yes, if applicable |
| Local grant making charities | Yes, if applicable |
| Food bank | Yes, if applicable |
| Borrowing from a commercial credit provider | Yes, if applicable |
| Borrowing from friends/family | Yes, if applicable |

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council