

**APPENDIX****Healthy Start**

This scheme supports pregnant women or those with children under four who have a low income and are in receipt of benefits to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. Payments are set to rise from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021

**Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Rates**

LHA rates are used to calculate the level of housing benefit tenants renting from private landlords should receive to help with housing costs. In January 2020, the Government announced that LHA would increase from 1st April in line with Consumer Price Index, but this was changed by the regulations released following the outbreak of coronavirus.

The return of LHA to the 30th percentile rent in each Broad Rental Market Area (BRMA) means that, in theory, 30% of rented homes in most areas are affordable to a housing benefit reliant household. There are nationwide caps which vary by number of bedrooms, which means that in some locations LHA is lower than the 30th percentile.

**Increasing Universal Credit and Tax Credits**

On 6 April, 2020, the Government raised the standard rate of Universal Credit and Tax Credits by £20 per week for one year, meaning those claimants will be up to £1040 a year better off.

**COVID-19 Adoption Support Fund**

The Department for Education has made £8 million available to provide emergency support for adoptive families affected by the coronavirus. Through the COVID-19 Adoption Support Fund local authorities and regional adoption agencies have been able to pay for therapy for families whose adopted children may have already suffered trauma, and be made more anxious due to social distancing and the uncertainty of the effects of the virus.

**Children and Young People “Catch-Up” Funding**

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to “catch up”. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. The Government has also launched a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help. The £650 million of universal catch-up premium funding will be available for all state-funded mainstream and special schools, and alternative provision. The £350 million National Tutoring Programme will comprise of at least 3 parts in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, including a 5-16 programme; a 16-19 fund for school sixth forms, colleges and all other 16 to 19 providers; and a reception year early language programme.

**Wellbeing for Education Return Programme**

The UK Government has put new funding in place to help teachers cope with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children's mental health. Support from the new £8 million Wellbeing for Education Return programme was made available in schools and colleges in England from September to provide them with access to resources and the knowledge they need to improve how they respond to the emotional impact of the pandemic on their students and staff. This might include the additional pressures some students may be feeling, as well as any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months. The programme will be delivered to nominated staff in schools and colleges by mental health experts via interactive webinars through to March 2021.

**Covid Winter Grant Scheme**

The £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, available from December 2020, will see new funding issued to County Councils and Unitary Authorities to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs. Nottinghamshire County Council's allocation is £2,316,000.

The objective of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

At least 80% of the Grant will be allocated to households with children. This is being administered by Nottinghamshire County Council. £0.45m (20% of the grant) will be focused on households with no children and vulnerable individuals, and this will be passed to the second-tier authorities to administer.

Broxtowe's allocation of £37,400 is the subject of a separate report to this committee.

**Covid Summer Fund**

The Covid Summer Food Fund enabled children who were eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.

**The Holiday Activities and Food programme**

The Holiday Activities and Food programme, which has provided healthy food and activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, will be expanded across England next year. The programme has been at its pilot phase since 2018. This summer, 10 projects working in 17 local authority areas split £9 million in funding to provide holiday activities and free meals.

It will cover Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021, and cost up to £220m. It will be available to children in every local authority in England, building on previous programmes – including this summer's, which supported around 50,000 children across 17 local authorities.

**Council Tax Hardship Fund**

As part of its response to COVID-19, the Government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with £500m of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area.

The expectation was that local authorities would pay an additional amount of £150 to all households receiving Council Tax Support. Due to the current Council Tax Support scheme at Broxtowe we were able to make this a payment of up to £300 per household, depending on the amount of Council Tax applicable.