



Services for Young Children

Help for vulnerable households this winter

Hampshire County Council is using its Household Support Funding from the Government to provide a range of support between now and March next year, that will help vulnerable households with the costs of food, energy and other essentials. As well as discretionary grant funding that has been awarded to early years settings, schools and colleges to help families facing hardship, we are also working with community groups, local councils and other organisations to provide the following support:

[Help with energy costs](#) – the County Council’s Keep Warm, Keep Well webpages provide lots of useful information and advice about how and where you may be able to access support with your fuel and energy costs.

[Help with food costs](#) – there are 19 Community Pantries across Hampshire which provide food at a lower cost than supermarkets, in exchange for a small membership fee.

[Food vouchers](#) – food vouchers will be available to households who receive council tax support, and households who receive housing benefit. These will be distributed by local district and borough councils in the coming months. Those who are eligible don’t need to do anything – they will be contacted by their local council.

[Housing costs](#) – local district and borough councils can provide support for housing costs in exceptional circumstances. Residents are asked to contact their local council if they think they may be eligible for emergency support.

We would be grateful if you could share the above details with your families, as well as reminding them of the support directly available from your setting via your discretionary grant funding.

Families can find out more about all of the support available by visiting the [connect4communities website](#).