

## **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Information Sheet**

### **What is the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund?**

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is a Scottish Government initiative to help families overcome challenges before they reach crisis point. The purpose of the funding is to support **low-income families** who need help to pay for essential items including:

**Food, fuel and clothing and other essential practical items needed in the home.**

The Scottish Government have made funding available for Direct Aid provision to be administered by Children's Services Social Work to support children, young people and their families experiencing financial hardship. This will enable social workers to provide direct cash support based on assessments of need of individual families and help prevent further crisis.

### **Who is eligible?**

Anyone who has children (under the age of 18) in their household is eligible for support through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund if they are on a low income and experiencing financial hardship.

A family does not already need to be known to social work to be eligible. Families can self-refer or can be referred for financial support.

### **How is it decided who gets a payment?**

Our social work teams will consider every application on its own merit. The fund is there to support those who need it most, during times of financial hardship.

There are a wide range of grants currently available to support families as detailed below and it may be that following assessment, an alternative funding stream is deemed to be more suitable. Families will be supported to make any further applications.

### **How to apply**

Families can apply directly by contacting [Children's Duty Social Work](#) either by phone or by visiting a local office. Colleagues can also make a referral with the family's consent in the same way and the duty social worker will contact the family directly to follow up.

### **How long does the application process take and how will payment be made?**

Referrals will be reviewed as soon as possible, and social workers will support individuals who meet the criteria to access this financial support.

## Contact

As well as the Family Wellbeing Fund, **Aberdeenshire Council's Support and Advice Team** can also help with:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction
- Blue Badges
- Free School Meals
- School Clothing Grants
- Hardship Payments
- Benefit Advance
- Debt Advice
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Educational Grants
- Scottish Welfare Fund enquiries

Please do contact the team to explore options. Call 03456 081 200, email [asat@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:asat@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or visit <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants/>

## Appeal a decision

If you disagree with our decision, you should write to us explaining why you feel we should reconsider. The decision will be looked at again by someone other than the original decision maker and you will receive a letter explaining the outcome of that review. [Have Your Say guide and complaints process - Aberdeenshire Council](#)