

2025/26 England FOI Request: Local Welfare Assistance

These questions specifically pertain to your local welfare assistance/provision (LWA) scheme.

By LWA scheme, we mean a discretionary service which:

- provides grants to your residents when facing a crisis (these grants may take the form of cash, vouchers or the item itself, e.g. a cooker)
- has a claims process via which any member of the public can apply for support

Please do not include information about the Household Support Fund (HSF) or the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) unless you used HSF funds for your local welfare assistance scheme.

All questions are specifically referring to support provided via the LWA scheme which is set out on <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/family-support/benefits/local-welfare-provision/> and we require information from the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026.

1. What was the total spend on your scheme in 2025/26?

Answer: £26,113.

2. How many applications did you receive to this scheme in 2025/26?

Answer: 82 LWP (Local Welfare Provision) only.

3. How many applications were successful in 2025/26?

Answer: 48 LWP only.

4. What percentage of your entire scheme (including food, fuel and furniture support) was delivered via:

- Cash

Answer: 0%

- Vouchers

Answer: 0%

- **In-kind provision of goods**

Answer: 100%

5. How much was spent on the provision of furniture, white goods and furnishings (including flooring and window coverings) in 2025/26? This includes cash, vouchers and the provision of the item itself.

(a) What percentage of your furniture and appliance spend only was:

- **Cash**

Answer: 0%

- **Vouchers**

Answer: 0%

- **Provision of the item itself**

Answer: 100%

(b) Please tick (or otherwise indicate) which furniture/appliance types you provide and tell us whether these are new or preloved:

	Cash	Voucher	Item - New	Item - Preloved/second hand
Cooker	-	-	-	Yes - Preloved
Fridge	-	-	-	Yes - Preloved
Freezer	-	-	-	Yes - Preloved
Fridge Freezer	-	-	-	Yes - Preloved
Washing Machine	-	-	-	Yes - Preloved
Sofa	-	-	-	-
Bed	-	-	Yes - New	-
Wardrobe	-	-	-	-

Chest of drawers	-	-	-	-
Table and chairs	-	-	-	-
Flooring – carpets or lino	-	-	-	-
Window coverings – curtains or blinds	-	-	-	-

6. (a) What percentage of your 2025/26 spend was funded by your core spending power (as opposed to additional Govt. funding provided via Section 31 grants, such as the Household Support Fund)

Answer: 100%

- (b) What percentage of your 2025/26 spend came from the Household Support Fund?

Answer: 0%

- (c) What other sources did you use to fund your LWA scheme in 2025/26 and what percentage of the scheme did each source make up respectively?

Answer: None. All core spend.

7. Are you maintaining your LWA scheme in 2026/27?

Answer: Yes.

8. What is your budget for 2026/27?

Answer: £41,053.

9. What percentage of your 2026/27 budget is funded by your core spending power?
If this budget is not 100% core funded, how is the remaining budget funded?

Answer: 100% core funded.

10. If you have closed your LWA scheme is the offer of the local welfare scheme fully reflected in your CRF offer. How did you justify this to your elected members

Answer: N/A

11. Would you support a statutory duty on local welfare support? If yes, are there any caveats? If no, can you explain what you believe the barriers are?

Answer: Yes, Herefordshire Council would support statutory duty on LWP on condition that either funding from other sources is not available or the applicant is not eligible for other funding from all other sources available.

If you have any further comments about LWA support or the Household Support Fund, please share it here. I would like my comments to remain anonymous: No.

Please note that Household Support Fund (HSF) and Local Welfare Provision (LWP) ran alongside each other. HSF was partially facilitated by Talk Community, a separate team within Herefordshire Council. They would deal with any food or food voucher applications. Everything else was sent to LWP Officer, who would carry out due diligence and refer eligible applicants onwards to one of the organisations that were holding HSF for the purpose of providing essential goods. Those organisations individually kept their own records of expenditure.