

Dear colleagues,

We wanted to make you aware that Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils are launching a new scheme to support many families and individuals whose lives have been made more difficult by the COVID pandemic this year.

More people than ever before will be supported - thanks to the imaginative way that the two Councils plan on using the Winter Support government grant – working closely with other local councils, the community and district hub network and voluntary organisations in the area.

They will provide Winter Support Packages to families to make sure that, not only all children have access to food whether they are eligible for free school meals or in a range of other categories, but also that families and individuals who might struggle with other essential bills, such as utilities, can be supported.

The food support will come via a voucher sent to families automatically, using a system many schools are already using. Each eligible child will receive a £15 voucher for each week of the school holidays (two weeks at Christmas and one week in February).

Those eligible for the voucher will be those:

- Eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium
- Funded two year olds
- Eligible for Free School Meals (including those not currently on a school roll)
- Eligible for 16+ bursary

In addition to the Food Vouchers, the scheme is also available to support these same families and individuals, as well as many more, with other immediate needs, including (but not limited to) other essential supplies and food, household energy and water bills and essential white goods.

In addition to those listed above, those eligible for this additional support will include:

- Households who receive income-related benefits
- Households facing financial hardship – who councils are aware of
- Families identified as ‘just about managing’ by schools
- Anyone with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Care Leavers
- Young Carers
- People with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ status – such as asylum seekers

We are investing in organisations that are already supporting families. Anyone in need of additional support can access it through this scheme using an online form. Cambridgeshire residents can fill out the form [here](#) and Peterborough residents can fill out the form [here](#). Alternatively, you can call 0345 045 5219.

My kind regards

Adrian Chapman

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Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council