

Delivered - Household Support Fund 3

£1.13m provided to 30,553 vulnerable households Oct '22 – Mar '23



- **£196,000** in shopping vouchers distributed to FSM eligible families via schools
- **£20,000** in shopping vouchers distributed to households via VCSE partners
- **£100,000** to Torbay Food Alliance providers (14 organisations) to supply food and essentials to all households in need, including approx. 20,000 meals each month via food parcels.

BUT these are “sticking plaster” interventions - short-term relief for households with an on-going need

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£1.13m provided to 30,553 vulnerable households Oct '22 – Mar '23



£693,000 direct to households via Torbay Council Welfare Support Team:

- Proactive targeted support to households, using DWP and in-house data (e.g. Pension Credit recipients and low-income households who were not eligible for government cost-of-living payment)
- Applications for support with energy, water and other essentials – majority in receipt of welfare benefits although open to all
- Welfare Support Scheme for fuel with focus on people on prepayment meters or in HMOs

BUT demand this year is even higher as living costs continue to go up

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Additional Community Support Oct '22 – Mar '23



£75,500 in grants to VCSE partners to provide Warm Spaces:

- 27 locations across Torbay
- Hot drinks, food, activities, support, signposting
- Directory and interactive map
- Energy Saving Advice drop-in clinics (ECO-E)
- Energy saving items e.g. slow cookers, thermal blankets
- 19,666 visits between Nov '22 and March '23
- Funding prevented some providers having to cut opening hours.

BUT need unlikely to change this winter unless energy and general living costs reduce significantly

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Additional Community Support Oct '22 – Mar '23

£100,000 enabling 6 new Social Supermarkets/Affordable Food Clubs to open across Torbay, allowing creation of a food aid pathway

- Individuals contribute approx. 25% towards the cost of their grocery items and choose what they want
- Prevent crisis, reduce dependency
- More choice and control, less stigma and shame
- More sustainable alternative to food banks
- 125+ households have joined a social supermarket since March
- All provide wraparound support and signposting



BUT the food aid pathway remains fragile due to escalating costs of delivery

Delivered - Additional Targeted Support



Additional £300,000 to Discretionary Housing Fund to prevent homelessness

BUT £8,000 a week is being paid out in advance rents via Housing Options at present, with no sign of demand slowing - equivalent to £416,000 FYE

Increasing sustained homelessness and a shortage of affordable housing available, private rents have increased disproportionately in Torbay

Delivered - Additional Targeted Support



£500,000 ASC Precept Funding to build VCSE partner capacity and resilience in the Advice & Information Sector (8 core providers plus partners) to deliver support around:

- Benefits
- Debt
- Housing
- Energy/Warm Home
- Advocacy

BUT much of this was to continue existing services non-recurrently funded. There is very little increase in system capacity and growing need due to inflationary pressures on households

In progress – Household Support Fund 4

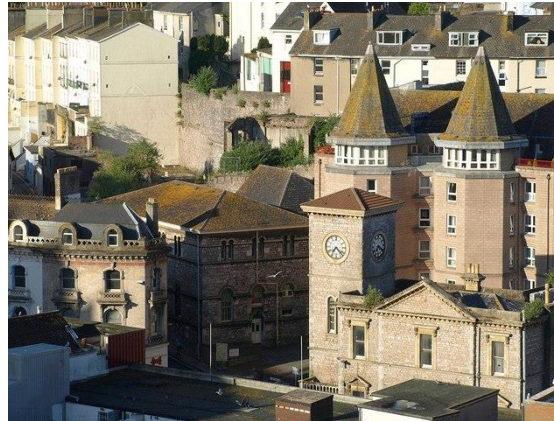
£2.3 million support for vulnerable households Apr '23 – Mar '24

- £1.55million cash support direct to households via Council Welfare Support Team (applications and proactive targeting) - **April to June - £554,000 already distributed – FYE in excess of £2m**
- £440,000 to VCSE providers (Food Banks, Social Supermarkets, Baby Banks, Home Store etc)
- £127,500 additional capacity for VCSE providers (benefits, debt, employability etc)
- £46,000 targeted financial support for Care Experienced Young People
- £46,000 supermarket vouchers to be distributed via Family Hubs

In progress – Additional targeted support

£2 million has been allocated from within Council budgets to be spent on preventing homelessness (excluding staff).

Additional contribution to DHP (Discretionary Housing Payment), but current projects at Q1 is will not be sufficient to meet increased need.



A robust response, but significant challenges remain...

- Most of these interventions are still “sticking plasters”. Poverty is now endemic – many of the key issues are **national and structural**.
- BUT we can have local impact – **whole system, partnership approach** needed to address root causes of poverty and help **break the cycle**.
- Food aid pathway is fragile due to **escalating costs** of delivery and **complexity** of client need. Trajectory of demand is unsustainable unless root cause issues tackled. Prevalence of more severe **mental health concerns** including suicidal ideation.
- **Public health** impacts of hunger and poor nutrition, cold and damp housing, stress and poverty trauma are yet to be fully seen
- Even if economic situation improves, the **legacy of this crisis** will remain with most vulnerable