

Proposals for a scheme to replace the current discretionary social fund

APPENDIX 1

	Current Scheme	Proposed scheme
Criteria	<p>Crisis Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover immediate short-term needs due to an emergency or disaster and, • the event is not the result of an act or omission of the claimant or partner and • an award is the only way to prevent serious damage or serious risk to the health or safety of the claimant or their family <p>Claimant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aged 16+ • be able to repay loan • have no funds to meet the need themselves • have no alternative forms of help available • not have had 3 previous awards in the last 12 months <p>List of exemptions to the above criteria (Appendix A)</p> <p>The award dependant on funds available</p>	<p>Awards to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover immediate short-term needs due to a circumstance that presents a serious risk to the health or safety of the claimant or their family and the award is the only way to prevent this <p>Claimant must be a Halton resident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aged 16+ • agree to the terms of the award • have no alternative forms of help • not have had 2 previous awards in the last 12 months <p>Exceptions to be the same as for current scheme</p> <p>The award dependant on funds available</p>

Community Care Grants

Awards to support:

- vulnerable people to return to or to remain in the community **or**
- ease exceptional pressure on families

Must be:

- In receipt or imminent receipt of an income-related benefit, **and**
- no funds to meet the need themselves **and**,
- there are no other alternative sources of help **and**

The claimant is:

- moving out of institutional or residential care **or**,
- moving to more suitable accommodation **or**,
- under exceptional pressure **or**,
- setting up home as a part of a resettlement programme

List of exemptions to the above criteria

The award dependant on:

- Funds available
- Priority- based on the impact the award would have to the claimant's circumstances

Awards to support:

- vulnerable people to return to or to remain in the community **or**
- ease exceptional pressure on families

Must be a Halton resident:

- In receipt or imminent receipt of an income-related benefit, **and**
- no funds to meet the need themselves **and**,
- there are no other alternative sources of help **and**
- not have had 2 previous awards in the last 12 months **and**,
- agree to the terms of the award

The claimant is:

- moving out of institutional or residential care **or**,
- moving to more suitable accommodation **or**,
- under exceptional pressure **or**,
- setting up home as a part of a resettlement programme

Exceptions to be the same as for current scheme

The award dependant on:

- Funds available
- Priority- based on the impact the award would have to the claimant's circumstances

<p>Application</p>	<p>Crisis Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually by phone (8am- 6pm) • Freephone • Decisions usually within 2 working days • Decision notice and appeal rights posted 	<p><u>2 stage application process</u></p> <p>Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone (during office hours) • Eligibility check and provisional decision given <p>Stage2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person to HDL for verification of information given over phone • ID check and pick up award and decision notice
	<p>Community Care Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually in writing • Decisions within 9 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On line • By referral from professional such as social worker, probation officer etc • Initial eligibility check • Decisions within 9 working days
<p>Awards Payment</p>	<p>Crisis Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans: Cash paid direct into claimants bank account <p><u>Loans usually cover costs for:</u></p> <p>Day to day living expenses such as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nappies • Toiletries • Cleaning /hygiene products or • Money for pay as you go fuel meters 	<p>Loan for anything awarded with a monetary cost to the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher or pre- paid card for specified goods or service • Direct payment to supplier <p><u>Loans to cover costs for:</u></p> <p>Day to day living expenses such as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nappies • Toiletries • Cleaning /hygiene products or • Money for pay as you go fuel meters or, • White goods and furniture

	<p>In the event of a crisis loans can cover cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White goods or furniture <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on up to 60% of income support rate • No min award • Max award of £1,500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency travel <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to food bank • No min award • Max award of £1,500
	<p>Community care Grants</p> <p>Non repayable grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash paid direct into claimants bank account • Min award of £30 (other than travel) <p>To cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White goods • Furniture – beds/bedding, sofa , carpets, curtains • Household equipment- cutlery , pans • Clothing • Removal expenses • Travel costs • Connection charges 	<p>Loan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voucher or pre- paid card for specified goods or service • Direct payment to supplier <p>To cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White goods • Furniture – beds/bedding, sofa , carpets, curtains • Household equipment- cutlery , pans • Clothing • Removal expenses • Travel costs • Connection charges
<p>Appeals</p>	<p>Crisis Loans & Community Care Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal appeals process with further appeal rights via independent body • Appeals to be made in writing within 28 days of decision 	<p>Two stage process</p> <p>First Stage -Revision of original decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered as part of the initial telephone application or within 2 days of the original decision at officer level <p>Second Stage - Appeals Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeals Panel (Members)

Appendix A

Needs which are not covered by a Crisis Loan

- a need which occurs outside the United Kingdom
- **or** an educational or training need including clothing and tools
- **or** distinctive school uniform or sports clothes for use at school or equipment to be used at school
- **or** travelling expenses to or from school
- **or** school meals taken during school holidays by children who are entitled to free school meals
- **or** expenses in connection with court (legal) proceedings such as legal fees, court fees, fines, costs, damages, subsistence or travelling expenses (other than emergency travelling expenses when stranded away from home)
- **or** removal or storage charges if you are being re-housed following a compulsory purchase order, a redevelopment or closing order, a compulsory exchange of tenancies, or under a housing authority's statutory duty to the homeless
- **or** domestic assistance and respite care
- **or** any repair to council property and, in the case of Scotland, any repair to property of certain housing trusts
- **or** a medical, surgical, optical, aural or dental item or service (these needs can be provided free of charge by the National Health Service, if you are getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related) or Pension Credit (which includes the guarantee credit))
- **or** work related expenses
- **or** debts to Government departments
- **or** investments
- **or** purchase, installation, rental and call charges for a telephone
- **or** mobility needs
- **or** holidays
- **or** a television or a radio, or a licence, aerial or rental charges for a television or a radio
- **or** garaging, parking, purchase, and running costs of any motor vehicle except where the payment is being considered for emergency travel expenses
- **or** housing costs, (other than intermittent costs not met by Housing Benefit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related) or Pension Credit, certain rent in advance payments, certain boarding charges, and minor repairs and improvements)
- **or** council tax, council water charges, arrears of community charge, collective community charge contributions or community water charges.

Claimants ineligible to Crisis Loan

- residents in care homes (within the meaning of specific Acts) with no plans for discharge within 2 weeks

- hospital in patients with no plans for discharge within 2 weeks
 - people lawfully detained or on release on temporary licence
 - members of a religious order who are being fully maintained by it
 - people treated as in full-time relevant education
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- certain students and people from abroad can only get an award because of a disaster
 - certain people whose benefit claim is disqualified, disallowed or sanctioned can only get an award because of a disaster

Needs which are not covered by a Community Care Grant

- a need which occurs outside the United Kingdom
- **or** an educational or training need including clothing and tools
- **or** distinctive school uniform or sports clothes for use at school or equipment to be used at school
- **or** travelling expenses to or from school
- **or** school meals taken during school holidays by children who are entitled to free school meals
- **or** expenses in connection with court (legal proceedings) such as legal fees, court fees, fines, costs, damages, subsistence or travelling expenses (see [Crisis Loans for emergency travelling expenses if stranded away from home](#))
- **or** removal or storage charges if you are being rehoused following a compulsory purchase order, a redevelopment or closing order, a compulsory exchange of tenancies, or under homelessness legislation
- **or** domestic assistance and respite care
- **or** any repair to council property and, in Scotland, any repair to property of certain housing trusts (you should contact your local council for advice)
- **or** a medical, surgical, optical, aural or dental item or service (note that needs under all of these headings can be provided free of charge by the National Health Service, if you are getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), or Pension Credit)
- **or** work related expenses
- **or** debts to government departments
- **or** investments
- **or** costs of purchasing, renting or installing a telephone and of any call charges
- **or** any expense which the local authority has a statutory duty to meet
- **or** costs of fuel consumption and any associated standing charges
- **or** housing costs, other than minor repairs and improvements and charges for accommodation associated with certain visits (see – [Expenses for certain journeys](#))
- **or** council tax, council water charges, arrears of community charge, collective community charge contributions or community water charges
- **or** daily living expenses, such as food and groceries, except when caring for a prisoner on release on temporary licence or where a Crisis Loan cannot be awarded for such expenses because the £1,500 limit has been reached by the applicant