**Leicester City Council Response – 21st September 2018**

1a) Do you currently run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS)? This is the scheme – or schemes – introduced following the abolition of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses from 1 April 2013\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | **** |
| No |  |

1b) If yes, what is the name or names of your scheme?

|  |
| --- |
| Community Support Grants |

1c) If yes, what is your LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

|  |
| --- |
| £425,692 |

\* If you use the funding that would previously have been spent on LWAS in a different way, e.g. you use it to fund advice services etc. please use this space to summarise this approach and answer other questions as appropriate.

|  |
| --- |
| N/A |

2. What was your annual expenditure on Local Welfare Assistance in:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | £427,808 |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | £478,550 |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | £567,774 |

3. How many local welfare assistance applications have you received, and by how many individual applicants (regardless of outcome):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of applications** | **Number of separate individuals** |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | 1,346 | This information is not recorded in a reportable format. This would involve a manual trawl of every application and would exceed the cost limit.This is a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with this part of your request will exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | 1,077 |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | 1,046 |

4. How many awards and/or loans were granted in:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of applications** | **Number of separate individuals applying** |
| 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 | 806 | This information is not recorded in a reportable format. To extract the information from individual files will exceed well over 18 hours, therefore this is a refusal under exemption section 12.1 of the Act.  |
| 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 | 459 |
| 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 | 429 |

5. Is the local welfare assistance you offer grant or loan based? (tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cash grants  |  |
| Cash loans  |  |
| Grants of in kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc.) |  |
| Loans for in-kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc.) |  |
| Other (please give details) |  |

6. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Number of applications** | **Number of awards given** | **Number of loans given** |
| How many applicants had children under the age of 18 living in the household?  | As above, this information is not recorded in the specified categories. This would mean a manual trawl of all cases. This process would exceed the cost limit, therefore this is a refusal under exemption section 12.1 of the Act. Data for care leavers is not held therefore this is a refusal under exemption secton1.1 of the Act, information not held by the Council.  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 0-5 years |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 6-10 years  |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 11-15 years |
| How many applicants had children who were aged 16-17 years |
| How many applicants were aged 16 &17 years old e.g. care leavers, estranged young people, young parents (please put ‘not eligible’ if applicants must be aged over 18) |

7. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 how many applications were related to (please indicate all that apply):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Individuals** | **Individuals with children living their household** |
| Food | This information is not recorded in a reportable format. To extract the information from individual files will exceed well over 18 hours, therefore this is a refusal under exemption section 12.1 of the Act. |
| Energy costs |
| Furniture |
| Other household furnishings (eg carpets/curtains) |
| Electrical goods e.g. fridge, cooker |
| Clothing |
| Early years care e.g. nappies, pram, milk  |
| Emergency travel expenses |
| Other (please list some examples as well as the number) |

8) Is having children a factor that is taken into account when deciding whether to give an award? If yes, in what way.

|  |
| --- |
| CSG Policy Appendix A, section 5, defines the circumstances that may place applicants in a priority group. [www.leicester.gov.uk/csg](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/csg) |

9a) Of those families with dependent children that received support from LWAS, how many have children who were considered a ‘child in need’, or were on a child protection plan when they applied?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The total number considered a ‘child in need’ or on a child protection plan  | The total number considered a child in need  | The total number with children on child protection plans |
| The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council. |

9b) Following an application for LWAS how many children were referred for a child in need assessment?

|  |
| --- |
| This is a refusal notice in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by the Council. |

10. How many of the total applicants were also referred to the following forms of support?

Applicants whether awarded or refused are sometimes referred to the local authority’s funded advice provider, Citizens Advice LeicesterShire, for personal budgeting support. However, referral outcomes are not monitored.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of successful applicants referred | Number of refused applicants referred  |
| Debt advice | We do not collect this information. Therefore this is a refusal notice in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, information not held by the Council. |
| Welfare Rights advice |
| Immigration advice |
| Mental Health support |
| Family Support services |
| Other (please specify) |

11) What are your residence requirements for LWAS eligibility?

|  |
| --- |
| This is defined in section 2.1 of our policy, available at [www.leicester.gov.uk/csg](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/csg)This therefore constitutes a refusal notice because exemption section 21 of the FOI Act is being applied, namely the information is already in public domain, i.e. the Council website.  |

12a) Are applicants required to be in receipt of out-of-work benefits to be eligible for support?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No | **** |

12b) If yes, do you have exemptions for these? (e.g. families with children, emergency grants in event of fire etc.).

|  |
| --- |
| Not applicable |

12c) If yes, please specify

|  |
| --- |
| Not applicable |

13. Is there a limit to the number of applications an individual can make in one year?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes (please give number) | 2 crisis applications in a rolling 12-month period |
| No (there is no annual limit on the number of applications) |  |

14. How can an applicant submit an application for local welfare assistance? (tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Paper application |  |
| Online application |  Support only |
| Telephone application |  Crisis only |
| In person |  |
| Through another agency |  Crisis and support |
| Other (please specify |  |

15.Which, if any, of the following sources do applicants need to have exhausted (or checked are not appropriate for their needs) before they can make an application for LWAS?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DWP Budgeting Loans | **** |
| DWP advance payment of benefit | **** |
| Local grant making charities | **** |
| Food bank |  |
| Borrowing from a commercial credit provider |  |
| Borrowing from friends/family | **** |