

**Proposals for the LA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies (£320,713.25)**

**Proposed Award 1: Essential support for the community during COVID-19**

To extend Ageing Well's current contract to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to ensure continuity of provision for shopping related tasks and support to maximise independence/regain confidence. Cost £45,000.00

We need to continue to offer support to households regarding access to food and essential supplies, even when individuals have (often limited) the means to pay for them, but have difficulties accessing them. The funding from the grant, is to ensure that a local response remains in place for vulnerable people – providing them with information and advice for a range of services/opportunities which would support them to access food and essential supplies on a longer term basis, building on the systems put in place via the creation of the Community Hub (April'20).

**See Annexe A.**

**Proposal Award 2: Food Partnership**

Continuous support, September 2020 to March 2021, for foodbanks and to keep open the food hubs in the areas of the greatest need and awarding fairness across the city. Reintroduce emergency parcels in the event of another lockdown. Cost includes bulk purchase of food and essential items such as cleaning products such as toiletries and washing products and delivery. Cost £93,944.00

**See table below.**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Sept - March total budget</b>	<b>BHCC emergency assistance grant - proposal</b>	<b>FP applied to other sources - will hear by mid Sept</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Food sorting depot</b>				
Project Manager 7.5 hrs a week	3,479	0	3,479	
Hub Supervisor - 15 hrs a week for 28 weeks	4,685	2,685	2,000	
Volunteer expenses @ £50 a week (lunch and travel)	1,400	900	500	
Cleaning materials / PPE	500	300	200	
Zedify delivery £300 a week for 8 weeks	2,400	1,700	700	Based on £80+VAT per half day. They have confirmed that they would need to charge us from Sept
Zedify delivery £100 a week for 20 weeks	2,000	1,300	700	
IT, phones, printers, paper etc	1,200	1,200		
<b>Sub total running costs central processing hub</b>	<b>15,663</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>7,579</b>	
<b>Food and essentials budget</b>				

Service	Sept - March total budget	BHCC emergency assistance grant - proposal	FP applied to other sources - will hear by mid Sept	Notes
Support for temp food hubs in September & October whilst transition to more claims via LDSF and move on work completed	32,560	26,760	5,800	Based on providing food in September only to Phoenix (45 x 4 weeks x £20 = £3600), to Coldean in Sept (40 x 4 weeks x £20 =£3200), to Table Tennis in Sept (35 x 4 weeks x £20 = £2800), to Old Boat (Hollingbury) in Sept (47 x 4 x £20 =£3760), to the Edge in Sept and Oct (40 x 8 x £20 =£6400), to Woodingdean in Sept and Oct (45 x 8 x £20 = £7200), to BELTA (Bristol Estate) in Sept and Oct (30 x 8 x £20 = £4800), to Florence Road in Sept and Oct (50 x 8 x £20 =£8000) Ongoing review to check impact on meeting overall demand in city
BHCC Central Hub	29,600	29,600		This is the backstop option and if numbers are lower we can reduce funding (or allocate to other work) Based on providing parcels for 85 a week for Sept and Oct and 50 a week for November to March. Team to work closely with LDSF team to get people's ongoing support needs assessed.

Service	Sept - March total budget	BHCC emergency assistance grant - proposal	FP applied to other sources - will hear by mid Sept	Notes
				Includes keep central hub at syndicate halls open although (propose FP work with them to reduce costs by using Fareshare, engaging more volunteers and doing a pick up as well as delivery)
To up food for food banks / food clubs / pantries- wholesale purchased. Support for 5 projects a week rotating. Total budget £500 a week	14,000	10,000	4,000	By bulk-buying can achieve better prices, better nutritional quality, increased sustainability standards and support local businesses. Also means that volunteers don't need to make as many supermarket trips
<b>Sub total food / essentials / packaging</b>	<b>76,160</b>	<b>66,360</b>	<b>9,800</b>	
<b>TOTAL without other things to consider</b>	<b>91,823</b>	<b>74,444</b>	<b>17,379</b>	
<b>Other things to consider</b>				
Bulk buy washing powder / toiletries / nappies for food banks / hubs to give out	4,000	4,000		Items food banks find very hard to source - could do one off shop (and see if we can get good discount by approaching manufacturers). Could be any budget!

<b>Service</b>	<b>Sept - March total budget</b>	<b>BHCC emergency assistance grant - proposal</b>	<b>FP applied to other sources - will hear by mid Sept</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Fareshare fees - to keep fareshare delivery fee free for Nov, Dec, Jan	10,500	10,500		This would benefit all 45 projects across the city that receive food from Fareshare. Could be more or less depending on how long want to cover fees for
Support 6 x pilot food clubs / pantries / other models	35,000	5,000	30,000	If BHCC is supporting the BMECP food bank that is one of the projects we have on the list so I have reduced the total to £35K
<b>Total other ideas</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>30,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141,323</b>	<b>93,944</b>	<b>47,379</b>	

### **Proposal Award 3:**

### **Access LDSF**

To give additional funding to Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) to enable it to support households over a longer period with Food and Utilities.

Whilst a person is in receipt of LDSF support, they will need to demonstrate their engagement with a service(s) best suited to support their identified needs.

For instance (list not exhaustive):

- Welfare Rights for complex benefit advice;
- Moneyworks for debt and benefit advice;
- Homeless Prevention team/ Early Intervention Team; and/or;
- Housing Support Officers for tenancy support.

The LDSF can look at any issues with regards for people that relate to Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax and refer directly to other services that could assist them.

The LDSF would support the person/their household for up to 3 weeks with the option to request a further 3 weeks following evidence that they have engaged with the recommended support service.

Should a person require further assistance, the referred to support service can request a further 3 week.

- The award for food is £30.00 per week for one person in the household, with an additional £10.00 per person per wk.
- The utility award is on average £15.00 per week for Gas and again for Electricity
- Single household support for 9 weeks Food - £270.00 Utilities - £270.00
- Family of 3 support for 9 weeks Food - £450.00 Utilities - £270.00
- Looking at figures from September 2019 this could cost the LDSF an extra £10K per month. Potential cost £80,000.00

### **Proposal Award 4:**

### **School Meal Vouchers**

To support children with food needs. The School Meal Team have received applications showing eligibility from families - with a total of 10 children to date - for households that become eligible for Free School Meal vouchers, with no access to the Summer vouchers. For the period of the summer holidays, each child would be entitled to £80.00.

As more families start to receive Universal Credit due to job losses at the end of the furloughing period this number will increase. LDSF need also to consider assisting families in need during other periods of school holidays and the possible closure of schools due to a local lockdown.

£4000.00 of food vouchers to assist up until end March 2021.

**Proposal Award 5:  
Children's Services**

Assist with essential items such as nappies, formula, clothes and pregnancy kits. Funding to support delivery of food. This had worked well as the team have had time to talk to families while social distance on the doorstep and are able to check on children and if there are any extra needs. Cost £10,000.00

**Proposal Award 6:  
BMECP**

The BMECP is the only BAME lead infrastructure organisation in Brighton & Hove supporting and empowering local BME communities. The BMECP was set up nearly 20 years ago as a community partnership, where its aim was to develop the BMECP Centre and to engage community groups and organizations on various local initiatives as well as supporting them with their development. BMECP as an infrastructure organisation operating from the Centre also works very closely with other voluntary and statutory sector organisations to meet the needs of the diverse communities of colour.

BMECP set up a foodbank mid-May to help cater for the diverse dietary needs of their clients and since then have supported: 804 Adults and 393 children. The BMECP need funding to continue carrying out the current service and assist other BAME residences with their cultural needs in the city as some of the food hub close. £10,000.00.

**Proposal Award 7:**

**Central Foodbanks**

The city has many vulnerable people and a large percentage live in supported accommodation and emergency placements. Many live chaotic lives and often need a one-off emergency food parcel, in order to support the two most central foodbanks where most of this type of accommodation is offer £3000.00 each to City Mission and Hove Salvation Army

**Proposal Award 8:**

**LDSF winter fund**

Remainder of fund, £71,000, to be held alongside the existing Local Discretionary Social Fund budget for help with food and essentials. Money can be redistributed from here in the event of other needs arising around food and essential supplies.

## **Proposal for the LA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies**

### **Grant outline**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched a new fund on the 10.7.20 for LA's to help those who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. The funding is a one-off contribution for 2020-21, under the LA Act 2003. Recognising the excellent work already being carried out by councils to help vulnerable people in crisis in their communities. The funding predominately is for those struggling to afford food and other essentials, due to COVID-19. The total grant is £63 million, of which Brighton and Hove City Council has been allocated £320,713.25. Funds must be expended within the 2020-21 financial year, but it is expected that the majority will be used in accordance with the grant guidance within 12 weeks of receipt of the funds (payment aims to be processed by the end of July 2020).

Objectives and principles of the grant state it can be used with discretion on how to identify and support those most in need; meet immediate need and help those struggling; used for funding existing schemes and other support which delivers the same outcomes and the need is greatest; using cash or vouchers were practical, as well as advising and providing information to people to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits. The government anticipates that most of the funding will be spent within 12 weeks.

### **Summary of the proposal**

This proposal is for a 14% percentage (£45,000) of the above grant to be used to fund ongoing essential support for our community during the COVID-19 pandemic, regarding access to food and essential supplies, even when individuals have (often limited) the means to pay for them, but have difficulties accessing them. The rationale for requesting funding from the grant, is to ensure that a local response remains in place for vulnerable people – providing them with information and advice for a range of services/opportunities which would support them to access food and essential supplies on a longer term basis, building on the systems put in place via the creation of the Community Hub (April'20).

As an initial response to supporting the population of Brighton and Hove, a Community Hub (in line with Government COVID-19 guidance) was developed in April'20 – bringing together a multi-agency partnership of statutory and non-statutory services, and predominately hosted by Health and Adult Social Care, and the Benefits Team. The Community Hub is accessed by both an online referral form, and via a dedicated phone line (repurposed LDFS phone line). The Community Hub provides a range of responses to the local community, as well as a proactive role in supporting individuals defined through the Government guidance as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. This proposal will support a new 2 options Community Hub response – Option 1 is for emergency food and essential supplies, managed by the LDFS/Benefits Team, which will build on existing debt support services; and Option 2

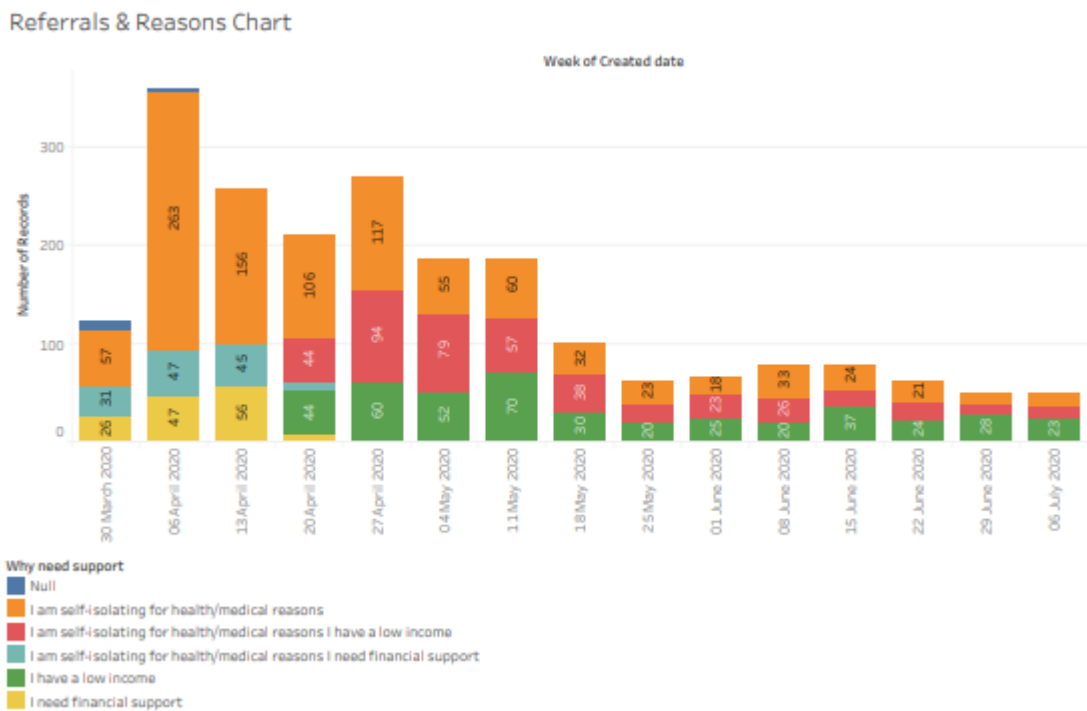


– all non-emergency food and essential supplies support requests, managed by Ageing Well.

**Current Community Hub activity summary:**

10,740 local residents shielded, and 5,761 registered (with central Government) as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.

Key areas of support provided by the Community Hub, include finding help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and other social support; emergency foodbank referrals; and support to keep active & well, and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.



Total referral up to mid-July = 2,140 (can be more than one request per individual)

Support Reason	Count
Food	1763
Financial Assistance	701
Mental Health Support	372
Medicine Collection	328
Physical Care and Support	266

Referrals from the Community Hub to key support organisations:

Ageing Well – 205

Together Co (Food) – 244

Together Co (social prescriptions) – 219

668 in total

Age Group of referrals to the Community Hub, 0-17= **61**; 18-64=**1,544**; and 65+=**530**.

Referrals to the Community Hub requiring Food support – **82%** of referrals (1,763 of 2,139 referrals)

Planned Food Deliveries for CEV – 914 food deliveries through the central Govt scheme per week.

Of the 1,763 Food related Community Hub referrals, 449 were referred on for support as they were able to pay for their food and shopping, and 933 people are being supported through the Food Partnership, via 870 referrals from the Community Hub.

The Community Hub is currently contacting people on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) list, to identify any ongoing support needs, as a result of some of the central Govt schemes ending as of the 31.7.20 (including free prescription delivery and food parcels).

### **Potential demand for support**

Currently, food requests have dropped significantly, however we are unclear on the demand going forward, there are still 'groups' of individuals who may need to seek support due to the impact of the pandemic, these include:

- Individuals, and households, who need to self-isolate due to being COVID-19 symptomatic
- Individuals, and households, who have been contacted by 'Test and Track'
- Individuals who were reliant on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Govt food parcels, which ends at the end of July'20
- Individuals who are self-isolating due to awaiting a hospital procedure
- Individuals, and households, who have been shielding (either vulnerable people or CEV), and due to issues of anxiety and/or increased frailty feel unable to return to their pre-COVID-19 arrangements.
- Individuals, and households, facing financial difficulties due to COVID-19
- Individuals affected by the end of the furlough scheme, facing financial difficulties
- Individuals, and households, who would be affected if national or local lockdown restrictions were increased

## **Current provision for Food Support within the Community Hub**

There are currently 5 possible pathways/outcomes that a request for Food Support can be referred to from the initial Community Hub request:

- Food Bank Referral – customer is not currently able to afford food and does not have any children 4 years old or younger
- Together Co Referral – customer is aged between 0 and 49 or is on the Shielded List from central government. They can afford to buy food; however, they are not able to access food (for example, they are self-isolating and have no one to go shopping for them)
- Ageing Well Referral – customer is aged 50 or older and is not on the Shielded List from central government. They can afford to buy food; however, they are not able to access food (for example, they are self-isolating and have no one to go shopping for them)
- Children’s Centre Referral - customer is not currently able to afford food and has one or more children 4 years old or younger
- No longer Needs Food Support – customer notifies us that they no longer require food support as they can support themselves

Together Co’s were commissioned initially at £10,351 for the Community Hub Food Response Scheme (for a 3 month period, April-June’20) and then an additional month (July), to cover up to the end of the ‘shielding’ period, at a total cost of £13,802. The funding covered the cost of a Food Response Coordinator, within the Together Co Befriending team, 5 days per week; (plus 1 day per week Operations Lead; and Deputy Chief Officer to oversee the service for 0.5 days per week).

Ageing Well have been able to flex their current contractual arrangements with BHCC, as they have a new (Jan’20) dedicated Food and Nutarian project worker, who was able to divert their role to providing the COVID-19 non-emergency food provision. This worker will now be returning to their original role, which will complement the response to the pandemic, and support older people to make healthy food options, and address issues of physically accessing shopping, through a range of enabling opportunities. Additionally, the Ageing Well service has an established and effective ‘single point of contact’, which is able to respond to a range of issues, and has a specially developed (and updated, due to constant changes) comprehensive directory of support services and opportunities, that they can signpost individuals to.

## **Funding Proposal**

The funding request from the grant is for £45,000 (14% of the total grant allocation for BHCC), this would reflect an equivalent 1 full time worker, and 1 part time worker within Ageing Well, to provide ongoing support to people requesting assistance with food and essential supplies, as well as triage any additional support requests,

information and advice that would not be provided by the LDFS Benefits Team. Additionally, funding is included to support with the transitional period from the current partnerships, and the restructuring of the Community Hub response. This funding would be for 8 months, until the end of this financial year, in line with the grant criteria.

The expectation is that the Community Hub will transition from its current structure (managed by HASC and the Benefits Team, with a range of deployed Council staff, and pathways to the third sector), to two options in regard of food support. Currently Council staff are responsible for responding to online referral forms, and telephone calls. The phone access will change to an Option 1 and 2 phone line – option 1 will be for people needing to access emergency food and essential supplies, this option will go straight to the LDFS/Benefits Team; and option 2 will potentially be to Ageing Well to triage all other needs – including non-emergency food and essential supplies. Option 2 will then be able to signpost people to a range of services, as well as referring into the Access Point if HASC services are required. The online referrals will remain within the Community Hub database system (as this is a key monitoring system for our COVID-19 response), and requests for food support will be triaged, and as necessary allocated to either to LDFS/Benefits or Ageing Well.

Ageing Well have an ethos of supporting people to reach/maintain their independence, through enabling approaches, seeking sustainable support. From supporting people to regain their confidence to independently shop; support people to use on-line shopping opportunities; link people to paid shopping support services; and access any ongoing volunteer support. Additionally, Ageing Well are building on their initial (COVID-19 response) healthy meal delivery service, so supporting people to have healthier lifestyles which in turn will potentially reduce the need for a range of health and social care interventions. At the peak of the first wave of the pandemic the Ageing Well food distribution centre were supporting 75 people weekly with fresh meals and non-perishables (including fresh bread, milk and eggs). This has now reduced to 61 regulars but people's circumstances are changing - either going back to work, able to access shops themselves or have found other solutions i.e. money advice enabling them to receive deliveries from a supermarket to their home. We are currently awaiting (Mid-August) the results of the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership survey, to assist with identifying longer term solutions for individuals, and Ageing Well will use this information to develop their wider support offer.

Ageing Well are considering (funding dependent) support options for people including - Helping people to set up long term food solutions using the Ageing Well database, including handling financial information / setting up accounts as required; help people to access a food bank or other offer for people living on low incomes / in food poverty (including support to access Money Advice Plus); for those who can afford to pay for a personal shopper recommend paid for services: Community Transport, Age UK, Home and Company, Care agencies; for those who can't afford to pay for services utilise a pool of trusted long standing volunteers who could shop on someone's behalf there would need to be back up options developed); and explore setting up arrangements with supermarket providers, for weekly order's, to be collected by volunteers (again back up arrangements would need to be in place).

Through the development of a range of options, the needs of vulnerable people would be efficiently supported, including those who would be assessed as 'self-funding' under the Care Act.

Additionally, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has secured access to a number of priority online delivery slots with Tesco and Iceland for vulnerable people who can afford food and can shop online, but are having difficulty accessing food because they are self-isolating, are following enhanced social distancing or because support isn't available. The LA's and a selected group of charities who join the scheme will be provided with access to a defined number of delivery slots for their areas and will have the ability to refer those most in need to enable them to book supermarket deliveries. Once BHCC joins the scheme they will be able to refer vulnerable people, a triage framework is provided for LA's. Individuals are given the choice between Tesco or Iceland for their shopping, and the LA/Charity refers the individual, then the individual places an order with the supermarket. There are restrictions related to the shopping – Tesco has a minimum spend £40 (or if less a £4 basket charge), with a £2 delivery charge; and Iceland is a minimum £25, plus £2 delivery charge. Supporting local people to access the above provision, could also be allocated to Ageing Well to administrate for BHCC.

If this funding bid is successful, we would need to ensure that the on line customer journey and pathways are adapted to reflect the new option 1 and 2 for the Community Hub. Additionally, it is recognised that if there is a significant increase in demand for support, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that provision would need to be speedily reviewed and capacity increase through support from BHCC services.

