

APPENDIX B

Re: Winter Grant Scheme

This appendix gives a brief outline of the Winter Grant Scheme (WSG) which is a 170 million pound fund provided by the government and distributed to local authorities. Slough LA has been allocated £475,125.36.

The scheme states:

The objective of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

When administering this scheme, the LA must:

- use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need
- use the funding from **December 2020 up to the end of March 2021** to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food and utility bills (heating, cooking, lighting) and water for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, sewerage and sanitary purposes), or other related essentials.

Further details can be found here [COVID Winter Grant Scheme: guidance for local councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-winter-grant-scheme-guidance-for-local-councils)

Slough LA Action

- There are approximately 5,500 children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and the grant money will provide food vouchers for the two week Christmas period (£30 Per pupil) and the one week February half term (£15 per pupil) this equates to approximately £247,500. Please note the FSM vouchers covers all children in Slough schools not just residents. Where Slough children attend a school in another LA they will be covered for the vouchers by that LA.
- A working group between officers in the children's services team and the children's trust are working together to identify families that will most benefit from distribution of funds.

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