

**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**  
(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)



<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Resources Portfolio
<b>Subject:</b>	Local Welfare Assistance Provision 2017/18
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	16 March 2017
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Community and Communication Acting Tackling Poverty Coordinator
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

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**1. Requested by**

- 1.1 Resources Portfolio Holder

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 To provide information regarding the use of Local Welfare funds during 2016/17.
- 2.2 To outline the use of funds allocated for Local Welfare during 2017/18.

**3. Information Requested**

- 3.1 On 10 March 2016, Resources Portfolio allocated funds from reserves to provide local welfare assistance, in the amount of £30,000 for 2016/17 and £30,000 for 2017/18.
- 3.2 The 2016/17 budget provided £15,000 funding for Keep Warm, Keep Well (KWKW) small grants for people in fuel poverty, administered on Portsmouth City Council's behalf by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF), and £15,000 for the provision of essential furniture and white goods for vulnerable households who are re-settling, administered by Housing Options.
- 3.3 The KWKW fund received additional monies from (1) under-spend in the budget provided for 2015/16 by Public Health Portsmouth, and (2) the Civic Fund and Montague Neville Fund, providing a total budget for 2016/17 of £25,862.
- 3.4 After administration costs, this provided a grant fund of £23,722.
- 3.5 These funds have been used by three services within PCC, and seven voluntary and community sector (VCS) partner organisations, to provide small grants to people in fuel poverty, meeting one or more vulnerability criteria.
- 3.6 Grants are used to pay for energy costs, warm clothing or bedding, or cover other living costs associated with cold weather.
- 3.7 Between 1 November 2016 and 3 February 2017, PCC services awarded 200 grants, totalling £12,615.

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- 3.8 Between 1 November 2016 and 24 January 2017, VCS partner organisations awarded grants totalling £3,672.
- 3.9 Partner agencies can continue to make KWKW grants until 31 March 2017 if funds remain available, but it is estimated that the grant fund will be exhausted by 15 March 2017.
- 3.10 HIWCF will collate information on grants awarded across all partner agencies and provide this to PCC by 30 April 2017.
- 3.11 As of 31 December 2016, £10,165 had been used to provide essential furniture and white goods for 61 families in need who were resettling:
 

3.11.1	Quarter 1	£3,830	22 families
3.11.2	Quarter 2	£2,055	14 families
3.11.3	Quarter 3	£4,280	25 families
3.11.4	Year to date	£10,165	61 families
- 3.12 The items most commonly needed by families that are provided with this funding are beds and refrigerators.
- 3.13 The Acting Tackling Poverty Coordinator continues to maintain and publish on PCC's website a directory of help for people in financial hardship, which can be accessed at: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/cou-financial-hardship-directory.pdf>
- 3.14 This was updated in April 2016 and will be updated again in April 2017
- 3.15 Learning Links have opened their 'Furnish' furniture store in Kingston Road, providing affordable secondhand furniture, along with volunteering and training opportunities across a range of skills.
- 3.16 The Acting Tackling Poverty Coordinator will continue to work with Learning Links to maximise the potential for Furnish to meet the need for essential household items among vulnerable residents.

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 Signed by (Director)

**Appendices:Nil**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location