

## **School Food Supplement Vouchers: Update**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the ongoing support that we are providing to eligible families, via the Household Support Fund, as detailed below.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1. Since October 2020, Sheffield City Council (SCC) has provided food vouchers in excess of £11.4m to 32,500 vulnerable families and children in the city; initially via the Covid Winter Support Grant and as of October 2021 this has been funded via the Household Support Fund (HSF).
- 1.2. This arrangement has now been extended until February 2023 half term (the HSF scheme has been approved up to 31 March 2023) and we will shortly be issuing a further round of vouchers for October half-term. The scheme was originally announced to the public in October 2021 and Sheffield received £5.2m of funding. In that round of funding, at least 50% (£2.6m) of the total funding was required to be spent on families with children. In the second extension (October 2022- March 2023), the Government has instructed that at least one third (£1.73m) of the total funding must be spent on families with children.
- 1.3. Voucher amounts vary depending on the length of the school holidays and the funding available, but the value has been typically a minimum of £15.

### **2. October Half-term and Future Cohorts**

- 2.1. During the week commencing 10 October, 32,500 families with children that are eligible for benefit-related free school meals will receive a £15 food supplement voucher for each child to help cover the costs of food over the October half term. Families in receipt of income-assessed Early Years Support (2-4yr olds), or young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers) are also eligible.
- 2.2. We continue to use Edenred as the voucher supplier and families have a choice of 10 supermarkets including: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose, M&S, McColl's, Iceland, and Farm foods. Parents/carers can download their vouchers for more than one supermarket.

- 2.3. Vouchers are redeemed using a 16-digit code which is provided in the letter sent to families and which needs to be activated within 3 months. Once redeemed on the Edenred website, the voucher will be valid for 12 months.
- 2.4. We have received confirmation of the continuation of the grant up to February 2023 and will therefore be planning future voucher issues for Christmas 2022 and February half-term 2023 at a weekly allocation of £15 per week.

### 3. Summary of Vouchers Issued to Date

Scheme	# Vouchers Ordered	Voucher Amount	Cost of Vouchers
October 2020	22700	£15.00	£340,500.00
December 2020	30000	£35.00	£1,050,000.00
February 2021	30870	£20.00	£617,400.00
Individuals	8900	£40.00	£356,000.00
March 2021	31500	£30.00	£945,000.00
May 2021	31500	£15.00	£472,500.00
Summer 2021	25500	£90.00	£2,295,000.00
October 2021	29500	£15.00	£442,500.00
December 2021	30000	£50.00	£1,500,000.00
February 2022	30500	£15.00	£457,500.00
March 2022	31000	£30.00	£930,000.00
May 2022	31500	£15.00	£472,500.00
Summer 2022	32000	£50.00	£1,600,000.00
	<b>365470</b>		<b>£11,478,900.00</b>

### 4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the ongoing support provided by the Household Support Fund.
- Continue to assist parents in school who may need additional support when redeeming their vouchers (we would also like to thank schools for the support that they have provided to parents to date).
- Ensure any address changes and new starter information is kept up to date to minimise any undelivered letters/vouchers.