

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the Spring Statement at the end of March, the Chancellor announced that funding for the Household Support Fund would be extended to the end of September 2022 – helping support households who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.

The support available to families as of 16 June 2022 will include:

- **Food Vouchers:** Households in receipt of council tax benefit can claim one food voucher worth £30 from their district or borough council.

Information about how to access this voucher can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies>

- **Community Pantries:** Pantries are open to everyone in the community and provide access to food at a lower cost. They offer a range of fresh, frozen and general foods, which change each week. Access to the Community Pantry is by membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members can select food to a significantly higher value.

Many of these pantries have cafes and meeting spaces and offer other forms of support. They can put you in touch with organisations that can help with utility bills, health, employment, and education.

Details of local pantries can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/communitypantries-overview/communitypantries>

- **Support for utility costs:** Households struggling to meet the cost of their utility bills for water, gas or electricity can contact their local Citizens Advice.

Details of local Citizens Advice offices can be found here:

<https://citahants.org/need-advice/local%2520ca%2520offices.html>

- **Emergency housing support:** This is available from district and borough councils. This does not include ongoing support for rent or mortgage payments. Details of how to access emergency housing support can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/housing-support/housing-support-hants>

If you have any queries, please email connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

To find out what support and activities are available locally search the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

Yours faithfully

The connect4communities Team

