

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002780
Date 17 September 2018

Local Welfare Assistance Schemes (LWAS)

Request:

I submit the following request for information under the Freedom of Information legislation regarding your local authority's provision of Local Welfare Assistance Schemes, or similar.

- 1a) Do you currently run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS)? This is the scheme – or schemes – introduced following the abolition of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses from 1 April 2013*

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

[The Wolverhampton City Credit Union runs the scheme on behalf of the Council.](#)

- 1b) If yes, what is the name or names of your scheme?

[Local Welfare Assistance Loans Scheme](#)

- 1c) If yes, what is your LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019:

[No additional budget for 2018/19 as previous investment in a Local Welfare Assistance loans scheme in partnership with Wolverhampton City Credit Union provided for an ongoing sustainable scheme.](#)

2. What was your annual expenditure on Local Welfare Assistance in:

1 st April 2017 to 31 st March 2018	Nil
1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017	Nil
1 st April 2015 to 31 st March 2016	£200,000

3. How many local welfare assistance applications have you received, and by how many individual applicants (regardless of outcome):

	Number of applications	Number of separate individuals
1 st April 2017 to 31 st March 2018		
1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017		

1 st April 2015 to 31 st March 2016		
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The information we hold is below. It is not split by financial year:

	Crisis & Welfare Loans Issued	Crisis & Welfare Loans Declined	Crisis & Welfare Loans Cancelled	Total referrals
2016	1,099	527	341	1,967
2017	1,429	538	364	2,331
2018 (to 30/4/2018)	524	208	23	754

4. How many awards and/or loans were granted in:

	Number of applications	Number of separate individuals applying
1 st April 2017 to 31 st March 2018		
1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017		
1 st April 2015 to 31 st March 2016		

As above

5. Is the local welfare assistance you offer grant or loan based? (tick all that apply)

Cash grants	Nil
Cash loans	X issued by Wolverhampton City Credit Union
Grants of in kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc)	Nil
Loans for in-kind support (vouchers, white goods, etc)	Nil
Other (please give details)	

6. In the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018? This information is not held.

	Number of applications	Number of awards given	Number of loans given
How many applicants had children under the age of 18 living in the household?			
How many applicants had children who were aged 0-5 years			
How many applicants had children who were aged 6-10 years			
How many applicants had children who were aged 11-15 years			
How many applicants had children who were aged 16-17 years			
How many applicants were aged 16 & 17 years old e.g. care leavers, estranged			

young people, young parents (please put 'not eligible' if applicants must be aged over 18)			
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7. In the financial year, 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, how many applications were related to (please indicate all that apply): [This information is not held](#)

	Individuals	Individuals with children living their household
Food		
Energy costs		
Furniture		
Other household furnishings (eg carpets/curtains)		
Electrical goods e.g. fridge, cooker		
Clothing		
Early years care e.g. nappies, pram, milk		
Emergency travel expenses		
Other (please list some examples as well as the number)		

8. Is having children a factor that is taken into account when deciding whether to give an award? If yes, in what way.

[This information is not held](#)

- 9a) Of those families with dependent children that received support from LWAS, how many have children who were considered a 'child in need', or were on a child protection plan when they applied? [This information is not held](#)

The total number considered a 'child in need' or on a child protection plan	The total number considered a child in need	The total number with children on child protection plans

- 9b) Following an application for LWAS how many children were referred for a child in need assessment? [This information is not held](#)

10. How many of the total applicants were also referred to the following forms of support? [This information is not held](#)

	Number of successful applicants referred	Number of refused applicants referred
Debt advice		
Welfare Rights advice		
Immigration advice		
Mental Health support		
Family Support services		
Other (please specify)		

11 What are your residence requirements for LWAS eligibility?

The applicant must have lived in Wolverhampton for at least six months (or 3 years out of the past 5 years) although there is an exemption to this rule in exceptional circumstances.

12a) Are applicants required to be in receipt of out-of-work benefits to be eligible for support?

Yes	
No	✓

The applicant must be in receipt of a Social Security benefit and/or Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit (or they must be eligible for and have applied for benefits and/or tax credits)

12b) If yes, do you have exemptions for these? (e.g. families with children, emergency grants in event of fire etc.).

12c) If yes, please specify

13. Is there a limit to the number of applications an individual can make in one year?

Yes (please give number)	
No (there is no annual limit on the number of applications)	✓

14. How can an applicant submit an application for local welfare assistance? (tick all that apply)

Paper application	
Online application	
Telephone application	✓
In person	
Through another agency	✓
Other (please specify	

15. Which, if any, of the following sources do applicants need to have exhausted (or checked are not appropriate for their needs) before they can make an application for LWAS? [Advice given about relevant other options but no need for these to be exhausted](#)

DWP Budgeting Loans	✓
DWP advance payment of benefit	✓
Local grant making charities	
Food bank	✓
Borrowing from a commercial credit provider	
Borrowing from friends/family	