

9 February 2021

Dear Colleague

**COVID Winter Grant Scheme- Marcus Rashford campaign.**

On 8 November the Department for Work and Pensions announced £170 million in funding as part of a COVID Winter Grant Scheme to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals. Lambeth has been awarded £1,118,444.

At least 80% of this funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children with food and bills, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households (including individuals). It will cover the period to the end of March 2021.

This scheme is part of a **wider winter support package** for families and children, including:

- An extra £16m for food banks
- "Healthy Start" payments to low income pregnant women, or those with children under four, will increase from £3.10 to £4.25 from April 2021
- The Holiday Activities and Food programme will run again in Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021

Following consultation and discussion around which groups need the most support, it has been decided to allocate **80% of this funding towards food vouchers for families with children eligible for free school meals.**

**Funding for children on free school meals and support towards winter bills**

**The contribution for each eligible child will amount to £20 for each week which includes £15 allocation for food and £5 towards bills.** We would be very grateful if you can allocate this to children eligible for free school meals via the voucher scheme you have been using to date.

Allocation of vouchers:

- £20 vouchers should be sent to families for each eligible child during the one week of the February half term

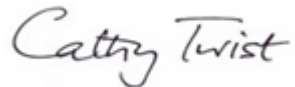
**The funding to cover these costs will be sent to you by Friday 12 February as a special Cash Summary payment,** and we would be grateful if you could then make arrangements to forward the vouchers/funds to families.

We have attached an **electronic information guide** to circulate with the vouchers which provides information on additional support families may benefit from during the winter period.

The remaining funds the Council receives will be allocated to the [Council's Emergency Support Scheme \(ESS\)](#) which already supports some families with their food and energy bills. We want to make sure families feel cared for throughout this difficult time and, above all, that no one should go hungry or be unable to pay their bills this winter.

Please get back to me if you have any queries or questions about this fund.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Twist".

**Cathy Twist**

Director, Education & Learning  
London Borough of Lambeth