

WBC – Local Welfare Provision Exclusion/Priority Consideration List

Excluded Items and Services for assistance

Awards may not be awarded for expenses / items / services in respect of the following:

- Cash for general living expenses

Where other statutory provisions are in place; including but not restricted to;

Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) budgeting loans

DWP short term benefit advances

DWP JSA/ESA hardship payments

DWP statutory social fund payments (for example winter fuel allowance)

The requirements under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS); for example the statutory duty to provide medical equipment – the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) website has more information on this matter at:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/socialcare/wokingham/eligibility/>

To make up a reduction in another benefit which is subject to a sanction through the claimants' non-compliance. Financial assistance should be sought through the DWP hardship provision – advice to be obtained from your DWP advisor if you are able to demonstrate that you are suffering financial hardship.

- A need which occurs outside the United Kingdom
- An educational or training need including clothing and tools
- Distinctive school uniform or sports clothes for use at school, or equipment to be used at school – unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated
- Travelling expenses to or from school because funding is available from other sources
- School meals taken during non-school holidays by children who are entitled to free school meals
- Travelling expenses to visit a close relative in prison if funding is available from other sources e.g. Assisted Prison Visits Scheme (APVU).
- Expenses in connection with court (legal) proceedings such as legal fees, court fees, fines, costs, damages, subsistence or travelling expenses (other than emergency travelling expenses when stranded away from home)
- Removal or storage charges if you are being re-housed following a compulsory purchase order, a redevelopment or closing order, a compulsory exchange of tenancies, or under a housing authority's statutory duty to the homeless
- The cost of domestic assistance and respite care
- Any repair to property owned by public sector housing bodies including housing associations, housing co-operatives and housing trusts (as these should be the responsibility of the landlord)
- A medical, surgical, optical, or dental item or service (these needs can be provided free of charge by the National Health Service, if you are getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related) or Pension Guarantee Credit or a Tax Credit exemption certificate – <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/help-with-health-costs.aspx>

- Work related expenses - including fares when seeking work and the cost of work clothes because help is available from other sources
- Debts to Government Departments
- Investments
- Purchase, installation, rental and call charges for a telephone
- Holidays and leisure activities
- A television, radio, a TV licence, aerial, satellite, cable or rental charges for a television or radio
- Non-essential electrical items such as computers, gaming machines, televisions
- Garaging, parking, purchase, and running costs of any motor vehicle except where the payment is being considered for emergency travel expenses
- Licence fees, mooring charges and running costs of any type of non-motorised vehicle e.g. boats
- Housing costs in respect of: Council tax, mortgage payments, sewerage rates, service charges, maintenance charges, collective community charges
- Water charges – contact your provider directly to establish what help may be available
- Maternity expenses covered by a Sure Start Maternity Grant
- Expenses which Health and Social Care Authorities have a statutory duty to meet
- Housing repairs and improvement (including cost of materials and labour) that aren't directly linked to an urgent care or crisis need.
- Any costs where private insurance should cover the cost of damages or replacement items
- Accessing capital that is not realisable, such as premium bonds, house sale or insurance
- Payments for commercial loans or insurance
- Mobility Needs
- Costs relating to an animal or pet

Please note that this list is not exhaustive

Wokingham Borough Councils' Priorities under Local Welfare Provision

The following is a brief outline as to what areas we will consider when a customer applies for financial assistance under LWP.

Crisis/Emergency need

Crisis - A crisis refers to an urgent need as a consequence of an emergency, disaster, unforeseen circumstance or a pressing need that is strikingly different from the pressures generally associated with managing on a low income. We will take into account whether the urgent need would be abated with immediate support.

- Food – will always be considered – usually by signposting to relevant foodbank
- Help with fuel for key meters or bottled gas.
- Help with fuel where customer has had power cut and evidence provided
- Travel in emergency circumstances within the UK

- Emergency repairs/replacement of fixtures and fittings
- Any other need that would alleviate an immediate and substantial risk to their health and safety.

Non Crisis/Emergency need

High – non crisis - The provision will have a significant (substantial) and immediate effect in improving a vulnerable person's circumstances by removing a risk of entering an institutional setting or helping them to re-settle/remain in the community or their home. (The outcome would be to improve someone's wellbeing and reduce need for any emergency intervention by other agencies)

Example costs:

- Moving costs
- Bed
- Mattress
- Cooker
- Bedding
- Fridge – where a medical need can be demonstrated
- Washing machine- where a medical need can be demonstrated

This list is not exhaustive.

Medium – non crisis - The provision will have a noticeable effect in resolving or improving a vulnerable person's circumstances.

This could include items such as:

- Bedding
- Fridge
- Washing machine

This list is not exhaustive

Low – Non – Crisis - The provision will only have a minor effect in resolving or improving a vulnerable person's circumstances. These can be considered particularly at times when the fund has not been fully utilised.

This could include items such as:

- Washing machine
- Fridge
- Bed/s

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- Bedding
- Crockery
- Kitchenware

This list is not exhaustive

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Version Control:

Date	Name	Description of update/amendment
29/04/13	B Blake	Document created
09/10/13	B Blake	Amended to public document
20/03/14	B Blake	Exclusion added to list for non-motorised vehicle
16/09/14	B Blake	Exclusion added for animal/pet related costs
31/03/16	B Blake	Reviewed for 16/17 – no changes made
03/08/17	B Blake	Reviewed for 17/18 – slight changes made to priorities