

 <p>Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Scrutiny Scoping Document</p>
<p>Meeting and Date</p>	<p>Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meeting 22nd September 2025</p> <p>Report of the Interim Director of Public Health & Wellbeing.</p>
<p>Report title</p>	<p>Update on the Household Support Fund.</p>
<p>Context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £742 million has been allocated nationally for the Household Support Fund (HSF) in 2025–2026 to help vulnerable households with essential costs. • Dudley MBC has received funding across seven phases, with £4.6 million allocated for HSF 7 (2025–2026). • The Household Support Fund (HSF) plays a vital role in supporting vulnerable households, with allocations aligned to broader strategic efforts to improve financial wellbeing and reduce poverty across Dudley.
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a comprehensive update of the Household Support Fund 7 (HSF7) and how funds have been used to date. • Inform the committee of significant changes to future funding and current preparation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek advise on how the OSC would like to be informed about the future changes and plans.
Links to Council Plan	<p>Delivery of the HSF contributes to supporting Dudley's improvement plans, particularly in addressing financial hardships, promoting community wellbeing and strengthening collaborative working with communities, residents and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The delivery of previous rounds of the HSF has been evaluated, and as a result improvements have been implemented to enhance the effectiveness, processes, and outcomes for residents.</p>
Estimated Timescale	The funding covers the period of 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
Required Outcomes	Receive comments and feedback.
Key Stakeholders	DWP, Public Health, Council Service Departments, Finance Team, Schools, Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector, Residents and Elected Members.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Andrea Goddard
Lead Officer(s)	Michelle O'Meara (Public Health Manager).