



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

**Kevin Gordon
Director for Children's Services**

28 January 2020

Winter Grant – Support to Families

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to update you on the **Winter Grant –Support for children attending Oxfordshire Early Years Settings**

Further to our letter in December, I am writing again to thank you for your support with the scheme before Christmas and to set out arrangements for February. We are asking that early years settings across Oxfordshire further support the Government's ambition to address food poverty across the winter period by administering the provision of food to all children who are known to be eligible for 2 Year Old funding or Early Years Pupil Premium (including those Children We Care For) ahead of the February half term holiday, whether or not settings are open over the holiday period.

Oxfordshire County Council will provide funding of £15 for the half term week for eligible children. Further details are provided in a grant agreement document alongside this letter. As set out in the agreement, we will provide initial funding once again based on our current understanding of the number of eligible children in your setting. ***However, we are asking you to provide support based on those that you know to be eligible.*** Please be assured that all eligible costs not provided for in the initial transfer will be met after a further data return.

Early Years Settings should be aware that we have now established a fund for additional emergency financial support for families for help with food and essential utilities during the winter. This is available through schemes administered by the city and district councils. Contact details are set out at the end of this email.

Please note:

- Early years settings will receive a balancing payment to cover any additional funding required to cover the costs of the Christmas scheme and additional funds to cover the February half term in a single payment from 3 February;

- Not all early year's settings have completed the required return of management information sent earlier in January. We will not be able to make the balancing payment element of the payment until this information has been returned and so please ensure that the online form is completed as soon as possible.

We once again fully appreciate this is a significant ask at an already challenging time and we appreciate the efforts you are making to ensure that our most vulnerable children and families are supported.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the team by emailing COVIDwintersupport@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KSG', is centered on a white rectangular background.

Kevin Gordon
Director for Children's Services

Information on additional support available to families

Practical help and support is available for people struggling to feed their families or heat their homes this winter as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with the county's district councils and Citizens Advice services, is offering support to vulnerable residents through a **Winter Support Grant** to fund the cost of food, electricity, heating and other essential items.

What help is available

Households can obtain support through supermarket vouchers, to cover costs for pre-payment meters, or to make sure that a heating or water bill is paid. Additional advice, guidance and signposting to other support is also available. Support is available up to the end of 31 March, 2021, dependent on the demand on funding.

If a resident has received a food voucher from a previous scheme, they may also be eligible to have one from the Winter Support Grant.

How to apply

- If you live in the **Cherwell District Council** area, visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/wintergrant
- Visit the [Oxford City Council website](#) for details if you live in that area.
- If you live in the **Vale of White Horse District Council** area, visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/winter-grant
- If you live in the **West Oxfordshire District Council** area, visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/wintergrant
- If you live in the **South Oxfordshire District Council** area, visit southoxon.gov.uk/winter-grant