

### Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Award of Funding from the Crisis and Resilience Fund to third party organisations
<b>Date of decision:</b>	17/06/26
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Corporate Director of Community Wellbeing
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Cabinet member decision on 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 delegated operational matters in relation to the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) to the Corporate Director Community Wellbeing. Link: <a href="#">Decision - Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-29 - Herefordshire Council</a>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, and Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing have been consulted about the approach to support Herefordshire residents as part of the Crisis and Resilience Fund framework. A political Group Consultation has also been undertaken, with feedback informing the development of the approach.
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To approve the allocation of up to £169,111.00 from the CRF to provide third party organisations to support individuals who are experiencing a crisis including access to wider resilience services.</p> <p>Local community third party organisations will deliver emergency financial and practical support to residents alongside accessible advice and practical support. Emergency food parcels and or evouchers will be distributed to support an individual or family at the time of crisis, i.e an urgent financial shock that has caused a sudden loss of income, escalating debt, housing instability, or difficulty meeting essential household costs. This is aligned to the CRF definition of a crisis as a circumstance of pressing need requiring immediate action to prevent or address negative outcomes.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The ongoing cost of living pressures continues to place a significant strain on low-income households, with many residents facing difficult choices about meeting essential needs such as food, heating and housing. These pressures increase the risk of financial crisis and can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, particularly following a sudden financial shock.</p> <p>Emergency Support and Resilience services are a core requirement of the Crisis and Resilience Fund. Local authorities are expected to support individuals to improve financial resilience, manage shocks more effectively and prevent the occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crisis</p> <p>These emergency support and resilience services will form part of a wider, coordinated offer delivered through the Crisis and Resilience Fund in partnership with organisations from the voluntary and community sector. This will ensure residents can access a coherent range of support services with clear referral pathways, strengthening local provision and maximising impact.</p>

	<p>The funding to third party organisations is an important component of the support that is provided to low-income households. Providing funding to third party organisations will mean that those organisations can provide residents who are struggling with the increase in the cost of living.</p> <p>Evidence consistently demonstrated a strong link between financial insecurity and poor physical and mental wellbeing. Preventative financial support therefore plays a critical role in improving wider life outcomes. By empowering residents with knowledge, skills and access to appropriate financial services, this intention supports people to address financial difficulties early and build resilience in line with the core objectives of the Crisis and Resilience Fund.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council has received an allocation of £2.3 million from the Department for Work and Pensions for the 2026/27 financial year, covering the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. While funding has been confirmed for a further two years, the level of future allocations has not yet been confirmed.</p>																										
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<b>Equality Considerations:</b>	<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that it is paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.</p> <p>Due to the scope of this project and its potential impact on certain protected</p>																										

	<p>characteristics, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is attached as an appendix to the cabinet report.</p> <p>The EIA did not identify any negative impacts at this time. Any future negative impacts will be reviewed and mitigated accordingly.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	The cost of the scheme will be funded through the Crisis and Resilience Fund allocation of £2,343,383.67. By providing funding to third-party organisations, the council will be supporting low-income households who have experienced a financial shock to develop resilience to better prepare for any further potential crisis.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	Not to approve spend to provide funding to third party organisations is not recommended. Individuals and families would otherwise fall deeper into debt, be without sufficient support to meet their basic health and safety needs. The Crisis and Resilience Fund is expected to support households in most need. By working with third party organisations, this will enable the funding to reach struggling households as well as provide them with further advice and support that many of these organisations offer.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed

Date: