



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Local welfare provision review

November 2014

Executive summary

The Coalition Government has made Welfare Reform a key priority and first set out its plans, including reform of the Social Fund, in the December 2010 White Paper, *“Universal Credit: welfare that works”*.

In summary, the then system of discretionary payments for needs met by Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans (for living expenses) was abolished from April 2013. All of the funds for them passed to upper tier local authorities in England and devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales to provide a new local provision. At the same time a new nationally administered scheme that provides an advance of benefit facility (i.e. for the existing Crisis Loans alignment payments, interim payments of benefit as well as Budgeting Loans) was introduced.

In compiling this report the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had discussions with the Local Government Association and individual local authorities and received over 100 written contributions from local authorities. We have found that local authorities were clear they:

- Have a good understanding of their local community, its demography and what they felt was required to support local people.
- Are working closely with a range of different stakeholders and partners in their local area and are delivering partnership services through these established networks.
- Are best placed to help vulnerable people locally and provide a timely and better targeted service than the previous remote telephone service.

This echoes the recent findings of the Local Government Association’s own study, ‘Delivering local welfare – how councils are meeting local crisis and community care needs¹’. The Local Government Association said:

“Councils have managed the available budget effectively; reduced the potential for abuse, and created schemes which better meet the underlying needs of applicants and reduce repeat demand. This has enabled them to provide vital, timely support to some of their most vulnerable and deprived residents”

Local authorities provided a number of examples about what had been required to enable them to introduce the new support and also examples of their experiences. This review provides a report of those examples.

¹ <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5863529/LGA+Delivering+local+welfare+report+FINAL.pdf/44b70063-0242-41dc-afc1-1a35a625d8cb>

Contents

1 Introduction.....	4
2 Background	5
Funding.....	6
Review of Local Welfare Provision	6
3 How local authorities have delivered their services	8
4 How local authorities have supported people and how they chose who to help	11
5 How local authorities have aligned the funding with existing services	15
6 Local authority success criteria	19
7 Funding – how local authorities have spent the funding in 2013/14.	21
8 Funding – how it is being spent in 2014-15	23
9 Case studies – best practise	24
10 The Government’s expectations for 2015	26
Annex A: Local authorities that provided information	27
Annex B: Local authorities interviewed	30
Annex C: Questionnaire sent to local authorities.....	31
Annex D: Amounts spent in 2013/14 by local authority	32
Annex E: Anticipated spend in 2014/15 by local authority.....	35

1 Introduction

This review was carried out as part of an undertaking during the passage of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 to conduct a review of Local Welfare Provision during 2014/15.

At that time the Government was asked what would happen if local authorities did not spend the funding passed to them for local welfare as expected, and an amendment requiring local authorities to report on their use of the funds was put forward. In response to this point, the Government's spokesman, Lord De Mauley, said (*Hansard*, 25 Jan 2012, Column 1073):

“Following the introduction of localised assistance, the department has already made plans to conduct a review in 2014-15 to obtain appropriate information from a representative cross-section of at least 50 local authorities, which represents one-third of the total, in order to help inform future funding levels. We have committed to using this opportunity to gather further information about the way in which local authorities have used the funding. I contend that this review will be more valuable than the information required under this amendment. It will tell us about how the provision is working and what the funding is being used for”

This report presents the findings from the review. In line with the terms of reference described by the Government in Parliament the review has been conducted to consider:

- How local welfare provision funding had been used in 2013/14;
- How local authorities are spending the funding in 2014/15;
- An explanation from local authorities for any variance;
- The delivery arrangements put in place by local authorities; and
- The outcomes achieved.

The review was conducted in two stages; the first involved sending a short questionnaire to all the local authorities that received funding. We received 106 replies to the questionnaire (71% of the total that received funding). The second stage involved following up the questionnaires with an invitation to twelve local authorities from across the country to take part in more in-depth interviews. The twelve local authorities were selected after consultation with the Local Government Association (LGA) to ensure a mix of urban and rural councils from around the country. They also represented a range in the size of funding received.

2 Background

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the discretionary part of the Social Fund and introduced payments on account to replace Crisis Loan alignment payments. Budgeting Loans continue to be available to existing income-related benefit recipients until the point at which they transfer to Universal Credit. Under Universal Credit Budgeting Advances will be available to meet a similar need.

This reform also allowed for the delivery of a new local provision to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for general living expenses. This is sometimes referred to as 'local welfare provision' or 'local welfare assistance' although different names are used in different local authority areas.

The funding was passed over to local authorities on a non-ring fenced basis, and with no statutory duties attached. The terms 'local welfare provision' or 'local welfare assistance' are no more than umbrella terms, or shorthand, used to describe the Government's expectations on the use of the funding. These expectations were set out in the Settlement Letter from the Minister for Pensions to local authorities in August 2012 which stated:

“We expect the funding to be concentrated on those facing greatest difficulty in managing their income, and to enable a more flexible response to unavoidable need, perhaps through a mix of cash or goods and aligning with the wider range of local support local authorities/devolved administrations already offer. In short, the funding is to allow you to give flexible help to those in genuine need.”

Local authorities' abilities to act in this area are provided under powers contained in other existing legislation. For example, section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to provide financial assistance to any individual. Local authorities also have duties under the Housing Act 1996 (e.g. sections 188 to 195) in relation to the provision of emergency and longer-term accommodation. Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 places a duty on local authorities to produce a child poverty needs assessment and strategy for their area, working with other local authorities. The Child Poverty Act 2010 places a duty on responsible local authorities (those with top-tier functions) to put in place arrangements to work with partner authorities named in the 2010 Act to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.

The new arrangements have been administered by local authorities in England (and devolved to Scotland and Wales) since April 2013. They are entirely the responsibility of local authorities (and the devolved administrations). Accordingly, there are no new duties on local authorities to provide the new assistance.

Reform of the Social Fund in this way, i.e. devolving responsibility to councils, has not been done in isolation. Examples of other DWP grants and accompanying responsibilities that have been, or are being, devolved to local authorities are: Local Council Tax Support; Housing Benefit and the Independent Living Fund. By way of illustration and in comparison with the sums involved with local welfare provision, for Council Tax Support Government has provided £3.7 billion in both 2013/14 and 2014/15. The Government's proposals for reform of the Social Fund to allow local authorities greater choice over how to use their money to meet the needs of local people are therefore consistent not only with DWP's welfare reforms but also with the Government's wider localisation agenda

Funding

There has been no reduction in the money available to support vulnerable people. For the current Spending Review, i.e. the 2010/14 period, the Community Care Budget was £142.2 million and the cash advance for Crisis Loans was set at £36 million (these were set in the 2010 Spending Review).

This budget was passed on in full to the local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales on a non-ring-fenced basis from April 2013 to 2015. Additionally, administrative funding of £72.2 million for delivering the provision has been provided for 2013/15, so all of the £178 million is available for spending on vulnerable people.

Local authorities were made aware when the first tranche of funding was passed to them that the overall amount of funding from DWP, comprising both programme and administration funding, would reduce in the second year, 2014/15. It had been adjusted for expected efficiency savings. These projected efficiency savings were in line with the Government's expectation that the new service would be locally aligned with existing local services, and thus managed more efficiently than the remote, centrally delivered DWP schemes.

Review of Local Welfare Provision

For the first part of this review each of the 150 local authorities that received funding were sent a short questionnaire (see Annex C). It was anticipated that local authorities would already be recording the information requested as part of their normal financial and audit activities and as part of their own strategies for increased transparency. We received replies from 106 local authorities. This was provided in a number of formats. Some provided information in the questionnaire; some provided information in another format; and some provided a combination of both.

We also agreed to work with the LGA to draw out examples of different approaches to local welfare provision. We anticipated that this would

Local welfare provision review

demonstrate the innovation and variety of partnerships that have been developed by councils to deliver support in their areas, and facilitate the sharing of good practice and success stories. Several meetings were held between LGA and DWP officials. The LGA provided advice about its own work in this area and how the DWP review could contribute to the overall picture of local authority local welfare activity. Accordingly, and based on LGA advice, twelve local authorities from across the country were invited to take part in more in-depth interviews.

Although not part of the terms of reference for this review, as set out by Ministers to Parliament, some claimant representative organisations also provided unsolicited material on their experience of these reforms.

All of the material provided has been used in this report.

3 How local authorities have delivered their services

The evidence collected showed that the local authorities that provided a return and those that were interviewed have established wide ranging models to deliver their services; some delivering wholly in-house using internal teams, some delivering wholly by external providers and others a combination of the two, with the provision managed in-house but delivered through contracted services.

“We provide the service in-house. None of the money is passed to any other provider.”

“Through a procurement exercise the entire budget was passed to a provider to administer the fund.”

“Developed a grant- based scheme, managed in-house, but delivered through contracted services provided by Citizens Advice Bureau for main point of access and referral point to local authority and all other support options, Allpay, a pre-paid card merchant for the cash element; and Reuse Network, a local recycling organisation for the provision of goods.”

How claimants access the provision varies across the local authorities with some accepting on-line applications only, where others provide either telephony based system, a face to face system or a combination of these routes including postal applications. For online applications some local authorities provide access to computers or support from their Welfare Reform Advisers, whilst others encourage applications to be supported by the claimants support worker.

However, it is important to note that where the application route is purely on-line the local authorities also generally provide an alternative avenue for accessing the provision for those unable to use the on-line service for example via telephone or a third party.

“An application for support could be made on line through the local authority website, telephone to a dedicated telephone number with the provider or by a postal request. We provided access to download an application form from our web site. There was no face to face facility available.”

“The applications for the fund are all made online. If needed the Welfare Reform Officer could help with applications.”

Local welfare provision review

“This is a digital process, purely on line applications. We procured a system for claimants to apply and we encourage them to have assistance via 3rd parties, such as their support workers. However when claimants are really unable to use the on-line service we will support them via the telephone. We expect them to be able to use facilities at places like libraries etc.”

The evidence collected highlights the innovative approaches developed to facilitate payment of provision. A few use cash-based systems (for both grants and loans) with payments being made by BACS², faster BACS³ or by PayPoint⁴. Other local authorities use alternative payment methods which are varied and wide ranging:

- Cash via pre-paid cards
- All Paid cards (a card credited with a certain amount that can be used to buy goods or withdraw cash)
- Clothing vouchers
- Supermarket vouchers
- Top up credit/pay point vouchers for utilities
- Food parcels
- Food banks
- Travel cards
- Emergency food boxes
- Food bank vouchers
- On-line shopping delivered direct to the individual
- Household items via a voucher system direct with the supplier
- Furniture, household and white goods provided directly by various organisations/contractors, with some contractors providing an element of choice through “vouchers”
- Several source “recycled” or “pre- loved” household items through external contractors

“Only “cash” is via pre-paid cards. These are used to provide groceries, toiletries, clothing, and travel etc. a weekly shop if necessary (costs based on research) and to pay for fuel top-ups or other needs. CAB act as stockholder of the cards and so these are dispensed when the client is in-branch. Furniture and household

² BACS is an electronic system used to make payments directly from one bank account to another. The payments normally take 3 days to clear.

³ Faster BACS are electronic payments that can be made on line, over the phone, in branch or through self-service kiosks in fewer than 2hours.

⁴ PayPoint is a branded cash payment network located in over 26,000 local shops opening long hours. By scanning a barcode in a letter or other communication, a customer can receive money via the PayPoint network.

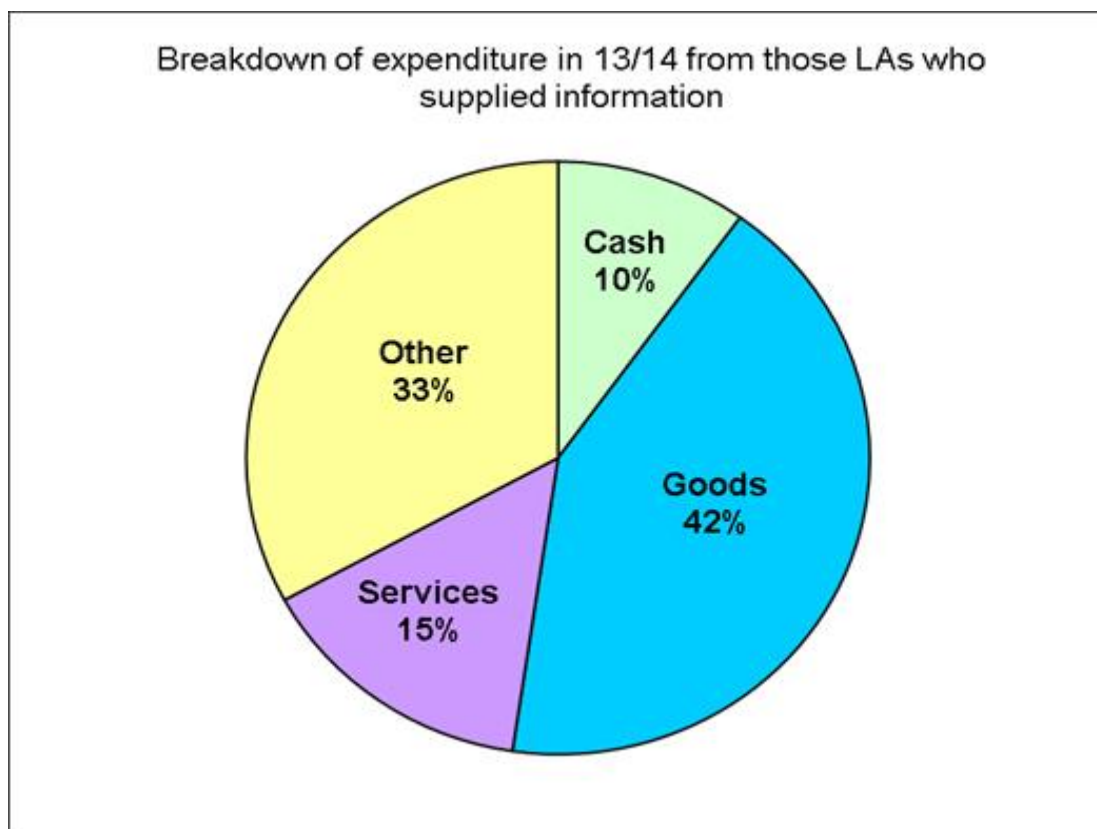
Local welfare provision review

white goods etc. are provided directly by the recycling organisation; however, there are some occasions where items are bought brand new for the client.”

“Payments (this is a cash based service) are made by BACS, faster BACS or by PayPoint. For PayPoint, the code to access a payment is texted to a customer’s mobile phone, or where there is no mobile a letter is sent. There is the option to get cash in hand, though this has not yet been used.”

“Our contract is that the provider would provide the items through a local organisation, where possible we’d like to use recycling companies. They used a non-profit charity that engages directly with suppliers. We issue a voucher to cover the cost with a letter setting out what it’s to be used for.”

“Pre-paid cards are open (i.e. not restricted to particular supermarkets etc.) However, they cannot be used at off-licenses or for gambling”



This chart does not contain data for all local authorities; only data for those local authorities who provided the relevant detail in their response to DWP are included. Values should therefore be treated as estimates, and used as a guide only.

For the ‘other’ category things mentioned ranged from debt advice, community projects and grants to local charities and other local organisations.

4 How local authorities have supported people and how they chose who to help

There could be many reasons for individuals turning to their local authority for support. In general local authorities describe their use of the funding as being a way to help people experiencing an unexpected emergency or crisis, or who need help and support to live independently in the community.

It also provides emergency support for vulnerable adults to move into or remain in the community and to help families under exceptional pressure stay together. It could also help to furnish the home of someone who has fled domestic violence, is a care leaver or who had previously been homeless. The goods that are provided aim to settle people back into the community, and are also for those vulnerable individuals who would otherwise have nothing.

“Local welfare provision is a local scheme which helps people who have an unexpected emergency or crisis, or need help to live independently in the community”

“The Fund provides emergency support for vulnerable adults to move into or remain in the community and to help families under exceptional pressure stay together”

“Scoring criteria determines how vulnerable they are, elderly, children in the household, fleeing domestic violence, hate crime etc. would always get help – even those in work. We apply discretion and we check against the social care system”

The majority of local authorities advertise the criteria for their schemes, usually on their websites. One local authority mentioned some internally set criteria which are not advertised to the public. For others each application is considered and judged on its own merit or scoring criteria is in place to determine the vulnerability of the applicants.

Specific criteria used may include some or all of the following (this list is representative and is not exhaustive):

- Be resident in the local authority area or must have been placed in another area by the local authority

Local welfare provision review

- Claimants must have been resident in the country for at least six months
- 16 years old or over
- Frail elderly (for example, reliant on carer(s), not independently mobile, suffering from dementia)
- Disabled
- Chronically sick
- Terminally ill
- Leaving institutional or residential care or undergoing resettlement
- Pregnant
- Responsible for children or young people
- A carer
- Suffering domestic abuse/fleeing domestic violence
- People being treated for severe and enduring mental illness
- Families under exceptional financial pressure
- People who are homeless or rough sleepers
- Vulnerable older people
- People moving to supported accommodation / independent living
- People who are leaving prison or detention centres
- People with alcohol or drug issues
- People with learning difficulties

As you would expect with each local authority designing its own model for their use of the funding, what the provision is used for varies, although there are some common themes across the local authorities. In general the provision is used for:

- Food
- Utilities
- Travel
- Clothes
- White goods
- Household items

Whilst all local authorities interviewed provided all of the above to varying degrees, some placed restrictions or limitations on the items provided.

“To ensure some budgetary control, we are having to restrict an individual to 3 “items” only, only 1 of which can now be white goods”

“We’re not going to provide wardrobes anymore – yes they are nice to have but they aren’t as important as fridges and so we’ll make sure we can fund more of the essential items.”

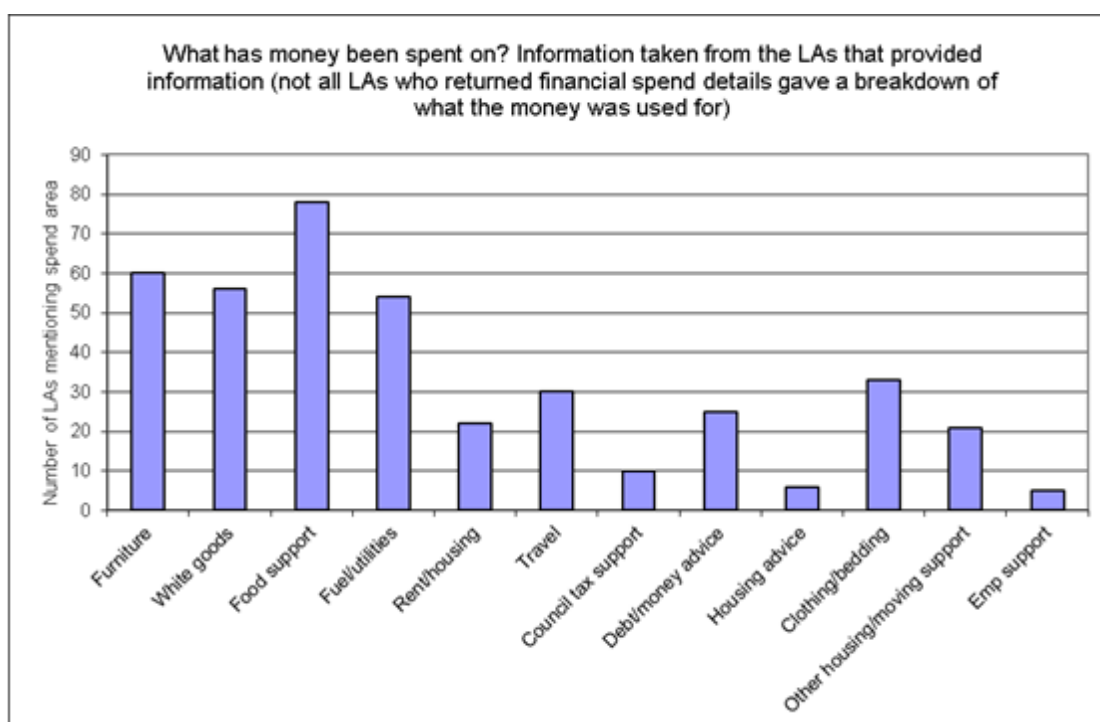
Local welfare provision review

A number of the local authorities also mention using the provision for rent in advance; making the link to preventing and reducing homelessness as well as speeding up tenancies by being able to provide household goods.

“We have allocated differently this year so now we look after homeless projects and paid for some benefit advisor staff to support vulnerable claimants”

“We know that delivering this way has done things like speeding up tenancies, because we have the goods available to provide services which prevent homelessness”

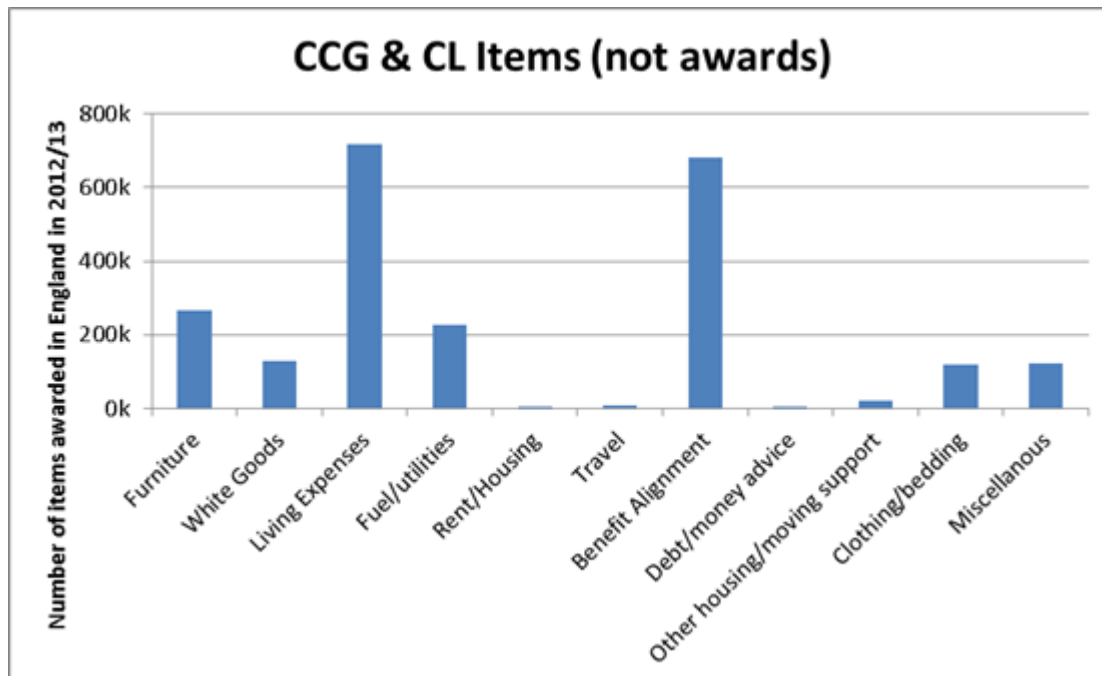
“In the second year there has been an increase in budget used for rent in advance; this has helped reduce the number of families that are presenting themselves as homeless.”



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The chart below is for illustrative purposes only. It shows a similar breakdown for the old Social Fund Community Care Grant (CCG) and Crisis Loans (CL) schemes in respect of items claimed for. These are not awards amounts as an award may consist of multiple items. For this reason and also because DWP captured different data from that captured by local authorities;

and further because the Social Fund was a completely different scheme from the multitude of local authority schemes, **like for like comparisons cannot be made.**



As part of the abolition of the discretionary elements of the Social Fund, Benefit Alignment via Crisis Loans was replaced with Short Term Benefit Advances (STBA) and Universal Credit Advances in 2013/14.

- In the first year of operation, over 81,000 benefit advances were made to claimants in financial need at the start of a new claim to benefit.
- Moreover, an additional 97,000 applications for a benefit advance were cleared by paying benefit instead, which is a better outcome for the claimant.
- Under the new arrangements we are often able to pay benefit instead of an STBA, and STBAs have an additional “likely to qualify for benefit” test that did not apply in Crisis Loans.

5 How local authorities have aligned the funding with existing services

Many of the local authorities describe their use of the funding as a holistic approach; enabling them to work with other agencies to support the household. The evidence collected, including during the interviews, provides excellent examples of where the provision has been aligned with existing services.

Several local authorities work in partnership with local Credit Unions or the Money Skills Agency (or similar service) to help educate claimants to budget in the longer term; sometimes only granting an award after the claimant had received advice from them.

“We also use our local credit union. They will meet the admin costs and interest charges for qualifying customers as long as they stick to their agreed repayment plan. These are used to provide interest free loans of up to £2000 to support claimants returning to work and budget until their first pay day.”

“We provide budget training and help people move towards Universal Credit... the local Credit Union uses Local Authority premises to offer support and advice on their services.”

“We work in partnership with money skills to educate claimants to manage long term. So for example if claimants want a loan we would only grant this after they had talked to and received advice from money skills agency.”

“Worked with promoting and funding Moneywise service, made up of CAB/Moneyline/Credit Union to provide budgeting support and access to short term loans”

Other examples include working in partnership with:

- Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)
- Children’s Centres
- Social Services
- Homeless charities/agencies
- Domestic Violence charities

Local welfare provision review

“This scheme also provides the opportunity to work in partnership with the CAB and utilise their wealth of local knowledge of all support networks and resources available.”

“At the initial screen / telephone call for the grants application if the person at the call centre identifies other council services / funds we signpost or refer the caller to that support”

“There is an internal Anti-Poverty Meeting chaired by our Head of Customer Services – as part of the work of the meeting we have mapped all of the provision available from the council to provide financial support. Sign post to other local authority funding, most relevant fund. Sign post to other support within the local authority – the local authority welfare advice team and local CAB sit in the same part of the main customer drop in centre and anyone applying for a loan can also be referred to them for help”

“We work with domestic violence charities and also with social services through our social care system – we work closely with case workers and prioritise homeless”

“Many of the authorised agencies form part of the existing network of partners that support existing local authority strategies. For example, the council’s Children’s Centres are authorised agents”

“We promote and signpost support that’s available elsewhere, with the view that our support plugs the gap”

“It was the responsibility of the provider to ensure links to others support services. The successful bidder was partly chosen on the basis of their existing network and understanding of the local area”

“We prioritise signposting so that the most appropriate help is given first e.g. ex-offenders – wouldn’t provide signposting to any other organisation unless person had first been to UnLock (the provider of support for ex-offenders) We also ensure that support is aligned with the statutory duties under s.17 of the Children’s Act to support families with children in need, its housing policies regarding the homelessness and rent-in-advance and partners’ policies e.g. Church on relief of poverty.”

“Subject to their agreement applicants may be offered or referred to other information or services that we think could be appropriate. This could include: CAB; Debt Advice; Social Services; Foodbanks.

“Before issuing the fund, we mapped out all other provision and services available to individuals. We collated a group of good contacts and had multi-agency meetings discussing the fund and where the gaps are.”

Local welfare provision review

Around 33% of local authorities have established some type of contracted provision to administer the funds on their behalf, or alternatively to provide goods or services as part of a supply chain. A similar number are working with the voluntary and community sector.

Some local authorities consulted before establishing their service whilst others created steering groups to inform their approach.

A number of contracts were tendered through a full procurement exercise, whilst others used existing contracts already in place.

“We set up a steering group to discuss which services and options we use. We requested quotes from providers before we procured a contract. We consider price, quality and experience before we selected a supplier. Our contract means we only pay for what we purchase – this works really well and we have a really good relationship with our providers.”

“We already had an established contract – we even used to have our own stock of furniture for furnished tenancies. The furniture is delivered directly to the property. We also use/engage with food-banks too”

“We contract out through a competitive tender process”

“We conducted a lot of research to see what provision is already out there. None of the funding was given to partners/providers. We have an agreement with the local Furniture Project however, this is on an ‘as and when’ basis, they are not given a certain amount of money.”

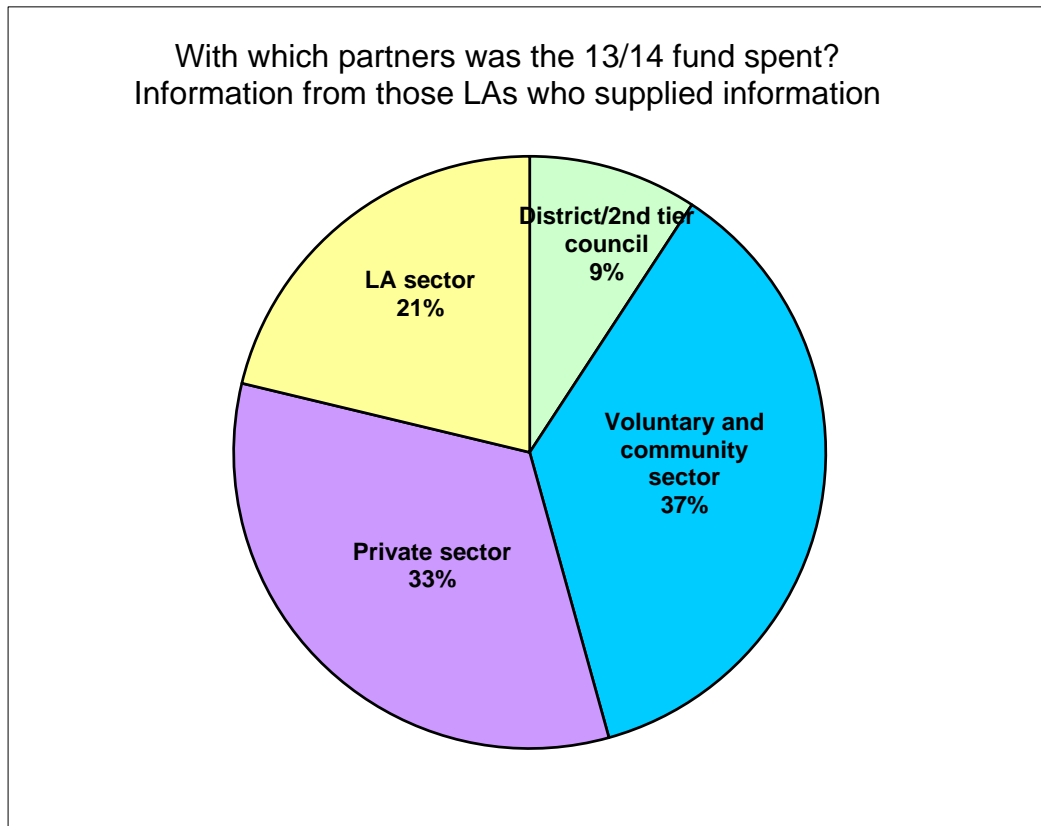
“The providers that have been chosen are all stakeholders we have worked with in the past. We have a tender process for the provision of services every two years.”

“Contracts were not tendered. We wanted to spend as little money as possible on administration and to provide the service as quickly as possible. And so we decided to look to existing experience and services within the area and made the approaches directly.”

“Scheme was designed with the Salvation Army, Red Cross etc. - a consultative process. In partnership with CAB, the voluntary and community sector”

The majority of local authorities that provided information (75%) mentioned food support in some form or another. The majority of this was through partnerships with food banks, whether through direct grants or vouchers. Around 10% of those that supplied information signpost applicants to sources of food support only and two authorities had effectively contracted out food support to partners. All of

these local authorities appeared to see food banks as an important alternative source of assistance for those in need. Vouchers were also provided for local supermarkets in some cases.



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6 Local authority success criteria

Customer representative organisations that provided information for this review reported that the funding was a vital source of assistance for their clients. A number of examples were provided showing how people had been helped.

Whilst evaluating success was not a part of the original terms of reference for this report as set out in Parliament, we felt it was important to try and understand what success looked like for local authorities.

Of those interviewed the majority have indicated that they have no formal success criteria in place, but all of them evaluate the effectiveness of their provision to varying degrees. Examples include:

- looking at the time it takes to process applications
- asking partners to report back with scenarios and case studies
- relying on feedback from 3rd parties
- customer feedback
- capturing Management Information/data
- Monthly accounts and production of Annual Report
- Monitoring against their pre-set criteria

“We don’t have official success criteria but we look at the time it takes to process applications. Over 75% of applicants are supported by basic care and we get loads of positive feedback. We know that delivering this way has done things like speeding up tenancies, because we have the goods available to provide services which prevent homelessness”

“Although there were no formal success measures put in place the contract is constantly monitored, with a particular emphasis on adherence to the pre-set criteria, the amount of funding being spent and the number of applications. No formal evaluation carried out. However the fact individuals in crisis were being supported is seen as delivering positive result.”

“We had a full consultation at start up, with clear ideas about delivery and we set out aims and objectives, which included reducing the overall need for the claimant as the provision wasn’t intended for everyone”

Local welfare provision review

“We are sustaining tenancies which prevent a return to homelessness. Previously claimants would move to a property and without anything in it, couldn't live and manage and would return to the streets”

“The shape of the scheme was decided by the Council Cabinet. The scheme had to be published in our Decision Makers Guide which is in the public domain. Individual Councillors have the option to commission reports and request attendance at the Local Authority People and Communities overview and scrutiny committee”

7 Funding – how local authorities have spent the funding in 2013/14.

Whilst the funds allocated to the local authorities were done so on a non-ring-fenced basis, several, though not all, of the local authorities interviewed have either formally sought approval from their Council Cabinet to ring-fence the allocation or treated the allocation as though it was ring-fenced.

“Firstly, we gained permission from the Council Cabinet to ring-fence the funding”

“Although this has been given to us as non-ring-fenced, we have treated it as if it was ring-fenced. We haven’t subsidised anything”

Almost all of the local authorities (80%) did not spend the whole of the funds allocated to them in 2013/14. There are various reasons cited for this:-

- Removal of the cash element offer means the demand has been lower
- Being cautious with the allocation
- Spending the money wisely
- Confusion at the beginning of the process
- Taking time to get processes up and running
- To help fund the provision for 2015/16
- Awareness levels locally of the funding being available

“All of our allocation has not been spent because the authority was cautious with its allocation, budgeted wisely, and maintained a controlled under-the-line marketing plan all of which ensured the scheme delivered what they set out to deliver and provided the support to those intended to receive it. The underspend has been put aside and will be used to help provide a service in 2015/16”

“All of allocation was not spent in 2013/14. The grant was ring-fenced and as we knew we had to be prudent, we also decided to top slice 10% of the grant to act as a contingency fund, in order to make sure that there was enough money for the whole year. On discovering that the council would have to fund services from 15/16 a decision was taken to stick to similar budget and spend for 14/15, in the hope that more monies would be carried forward that would help to fund the service in 15/16.”

Local welfare provision review

“All of the money not spent. Although difficult to assign a cause and effect it is felt the change to only making grant payments had a contributing effect. The take up had been lower than originally expected...”

“We underspent initially due to confusion during the “change-over” but now spending almost exactly to monthly budget. To ensure some budgetary control, the authority is restricting an individual to 3 “items” only, only 1 of which can now be white goods.”

“All of the money not spent. This is because we feel we spent the money wisely helping those most in need and who meet the criteria. The left over money went into the general funds pot to provide support to Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, other vulnerable groups and Welfare Reform Projects, all of which are helping individuals stay and settle in the community.”

“All of the allocation of funding was not spent in the first year of the scheme. There was an element of increasing understanding of what the offer was despite the marketing that was provided in some areas...”

Details on amounts spent can be found in Annex D.

8 Funding – how it is being spent in 2014-15

Almost all of the local authorities interviewed indicated they are continuing delivering their provision in 2014/15 as they did in 2013/14. However, some have opted not to re-contract their external providers and instead are bringing delivery of the provision back in-house.

“We didn’t re-contract, as the contract cost was too high and the awards too low. We don’t aspire to spend money privately as it’s easy to do ourselves, we’ve retained the decision making process”

“The provision that was allocated for 14/15 was the same as 13/14. We expect that most or the entire budget will be spent as there has been an increase in take up. There were no significant changes made to what could be provided under the scheme. In March 2015 they will be re-tendering for provision, in 2012 there were not many providers that could provide services, there are now more organisations...”

“We’ll do the same as much as possible – so all monies will be available again and we’ll keep it under constant review.”

“The process will remain the same with same contracts. We expect reduced administration costs because we know what we’re doing now. We’ll still have welfare officers available for the year but we’re looking at other ways / schemes to support residents’ access to credit. We’re also setting up a research project to really understand what’s happening”

“Due to current success, intend to stay “as-is” with minor tweaks to the process.”

Over half of the local authorities forecast spending all of the funding in 2014/15, with some saying they intend to roll-over any underspends into future years.

The expected increase is down to local authorities relaxing their eligibility criteria, their citizens becoming more aware of the support available and anticipated increase in take-up as a result of other external factors. These could include local employment issues – a factory closing - or events like flooding.

Details of anticipated spend can be found in Annex E.

9 Case studies – best practise

The review has highlighted varied and innovative approaches to the use of the funding; much of which is being done through delivery partners, such as Credit Unions and Money Advice services.

“We work in partnership with money skills to educate claimants to manage long term. So for example if claimants want a loan we would only grant this after they had talked to and received advice from money skills agency.”

“Providing budget training and helping people move towards Universal Credit... the local Credit Union uses local authority premises on two of the council estates to offer those support and advice on their services”

“We also use the local credit union. We will meet the admin costs and interest charges for qualifying customers as long as they stick to their agreed repayment plan. These are used to provide interest free loans of up to £2000 to support claimants returning to work and budget until their first pay day.”

One local authority interviewed has gone a step further by employing benefit advisors to provide money advice.

“We get involved early; giving budgeting and money management advice.”

Whilst another has established a referral route to the provision through social landlords who are trained and have access to an online system to make applications on behalf of their tenants.

“For grants we have a list of Trusted Referrers – these are around 25 registered social landlords who have been trained in the grants scheme, and have access to a web address where they can make applications on line on behalf of their tenants for a grant to allow them to move into permanent accommodation, maintain accommodation or remain in the community.”

Some local authorities have made the link to other areas of their core business, for example, preventing and reducing homelessness by utilising the provision for rent in advance, as well as speeding up tenancies by being able to provide household goods.

“We have allocated differently this year so now we look after homeless projects and paid for some benefit advisor staff to support vulnerable claimants”

Local welfare provision review

“We know that delivering this way has done things like speeding up tenancies, because we have the goods available to provide services which prevent homelessness”

“In the second year there has been an increase in budget used for rent in advance; this has helped reduce the number of families that are presenting themselves as homeless.”

A number of respondents have formed partnerships to bulk buy items, negotiate discounts with large retailers or provide a full installation service of white goods.

“White goods and beds are most commonly requested so looking to buy in bulk to save costs...”

“Pre-paid food gift cards with Tesco and Sainsbury’s are provided, we have agreed a 7% discount on the cash face value of the cards.”

“We pay for installation to provide a full service, so the goods are delivered and installed”

Other respondents have made the link to sustaining people in work by for example providing back to work support via interest free loans.

“We tweaked the criteria and now provide some back to work support to ‘bridge the gap’ between benefits and work in certain circumstances”

“Interest free loan offer for applicants that have found employment has been well received as it removes one of the significant barriers that participants have in taking up employment in an area with high private sector rents. This is provided through a local credit union.”

10 The Government's expectations for 2015

The Government had informed local authorities that the allocation of future funding would be assessed and reviewed as part of the next Spending Round settlement.

Spending Round 2013, which was published in June 2013, set out the Government's spending plans for the final year of the current Parliament in 2015/16. The Spending Round 2013 document set out the overall size of the Local Government budget which informed the draft 2015/16 Local Government Finance Settlement published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in December 2013. This included new funding for the Troubled Families' programme, health and social care, and local service transformation⁵ and followed several months of evidence gathering and consultation with local authorities and other groups.

As part of the Spending Round 2013, the Government provided for a number of areas of local authority spending, including 'local welfare provision', to be funded from within Revenue Support Grant, rather than being the subject of separate grants.

Therefore, from April 2015, it was intended that this would be funded from general grant to Local Government, instead of an identifiable sum being made available specifically for this purpose as before (albeit on a non-ring fenced basis). As is the case now, local authorities would continue to decide what local provision to provide and at what cost, as they are best placed to understand the needs of their local communities

This decision was recently challenged and as a result the Government has committed to making a fresh decision as to how this local provision should be funded in 2015/16. The Government is carrying out a consultation and will consider that, with this review and a further consideration of its equality duty, in reaching a fresh decision.

The Government continues to provide support to local authorities through general funds as part of the Government's commitment to reducing ring-fencing and ending top-down Whitehall control.

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209036/spending-round-2013-complete.pdf.

Annex A: Local authorities that provided information

Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Bath & North East Somerset
Bedford
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Bradford
Brent
Brighton & Hove
Buckinghamshire
Calderdale
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Central Bedfordshire
Cheshire East
Cheshire West & Chester
Coventry
Croydon
Darlington
Derby
Derbyshire
Devon
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Essex
Gateshead
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Haringey
Harrow
Hartlepool

Local welfare provision review

Hertfordshire
Hillingdon
Isle of Wight Council
Islington
Kent
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston upon Hull
Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leicester
Leicestershire
Lewisham
Lincolnshire
Liverpool
Manchester
Merton
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North Somerset
North Tyneside
North Yorkshire
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Redbridge
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale
Rotherham
Rutland
Sandwell
Sefton
Slough
Solihull
Somerset
South Gloucestershire
Southend-on-Sea
Southwark
St Helens
Stoke-on-Trent
Surrey
Swindon
Tameside

Local welfare provision review

Telford and the Wrekin
Thurrock
Torbay
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warrington
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Westminster
Wigan
Wiltshire
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire
York

Annex B: Local authorities interviewed

Bolton
Derby
Essex
Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster*
Kingston upon Hull
Kingston upon Thames
North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Stoke On Trent
Surrey

* Their scheme is a Tri-borough partnership, resources are pooled to provide assistance.

Annex C: Questionnaire sent to local authorities

LA Name	Cash	Goods	Services	Other (1)	Total
1. How did you spend the fund in 2013/14?					
£					0.00
Volumes					0
2. With which partners did you spend the 2013/14 fund?					
District/2nd tier council					0.00
Voluntary and Community Sector					0.00
Private Sector					0.00
LA Sector					0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. How do you plan to spend the 2014/15 allocation?					
Quarter 1 £					0.00
Quarter 2 £					0.00
Quarter 3 £					0.00
Quarter 4 £					0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volumes					0
(1) Other - Please provide brief details on how this is accounted for.					
(2) Where you didn't spend your full 2013/14 allocation what were the reasons for this?					
(3) Please provide an explanation of the nature of spending in 2014/15					
(4) Please provide a brief description of the scheme you delivered in 2013/14, how it aligned with existing services, with whom you delivered it and the outcomes achieved.					
<p>NB Do not limit yourself to the boxes above. If you wish to provide more detail please provide additional documents where helpful.</p>					

Annex D: Amounts spent in 2013/14 by local authority

2013/14 Allocation and spend					
Local Authority	Programme Funding (AME)	Administration Funding (DEL)	Totals	Total Spent	Variance %age
Barking and Dagenham	£766,521	£161,972	£928,493	£624,236	81.44%
Barnet	£799,385	£168,916	£968,301	£332,835	41.64%
Barnsley	£834,330	£176,300	£1,010,630		0.00%
Bath & North East Somerset	£249,260	£52,670	£301,930	£248,785	99.81%
Bedford	£399,829	£84,487	£484,316	£175,177	43.81%
Bexley	£500,127	£105,681	£605,808	£437,412	87.46%
Birmingham	£6,170,642	£1,303,903	£7,474,545	£3,078,243	49.89%
Blackburn with Darwen	£645,138	£136,323	£781,461		0.00%
Blackpool	£941,805	£199,010	£1,140,815	£941,804	100.00%
Bolton	£1,017,045	£214,909	£1,231,954	£1,017,000	100.00%
Bournemouth	£495,855	£104,778	£600,633	£518,930	104.65%
Bracknell Forest	£174,271	£36,825	£211,096	£51,223	29.39%
Bradford	£1,956,944	£413,517	£2,370,461	£1,156,472	59.10%
Brent	£855,509	£180,775	£1,036,284	£205,926	24.07%
Brighton & Hove	£629,487	£133,015	£762,502	£528,556	83.97%
Bristol	£1,564,735	£330,640	£1,895,375		0.00%
Bromley	£819,535	£173,174	£992,709		0.00%
Buckinghamshire	£479,510	£101,324	£580,834	£141,530	29.52%
Bury	£570,871	£120,629	£691,500		0.00%
Calderdale	£550,199	£116,261	£666,460	£556,206	101.09%
Cambridgeshire	£860,674	£181,867	£1,042,541	£860,674	100.00%
Camden	£856,465	£180,978	£1,037,443	£449,546	52.49%
Central Bedfordshire	£355,903	£75,205	£431,108	£331,074	93.02%
Cheshire East	£612,032	£129,327	£741,359	£407,701	66.61%
Cheshire West & Chester	£755,020	£159,541	£914,561	£598,000	79.20%
City of London	£20,994	£4,436	£25,430		0.00%
Cornwall	£985,074	£208,154	£1,193,228		0.00%
County Durham	£1,592,057	£336,414	£1,928,471	£1,005,188	63.14%
Coventry	£1,195,974	£252,718	£1,448,692	£1,195,974	100.00%
Croydon	£1,151,867	£243,398	£1,395,265	£1,121,345	97.35%
Cumbria	£1,148,229	£242,629	£1,390,858		0.00%
Darlington	£407,270	£86,059	£493,329	£336,763	82.69%
Derby	£986,595	£208,475	£1,195,070	£986,595	100.00%
Derbyshire	£1,531,041	£323,520	£1,854,561	£764,653	49.94%
Devon	£1,127,174	£238,180	£1,365,354	£1,365,354	121.13%
Doncaster	£914,324	£193,204	£1,107,528		0.00%
Dorset	£499,426	£105,532	£604,958		0.00%
Dudley	£693,159	£146,470	£839,629	£242,400	34.97%
Ealing	£867,493	£183,308	£1,050,801	£285,667	32.93%
East Riding of Yorkshire	£557,071	£117,713	£674,784	£396,454	71.17%
East Sussex	£992,468	£209,716	£1,202,184	£746,289	75.20%
Enfield	£910,673	£192,432	£1,103,105		0.00%
Essex	£2,461,324	£520,096	£2,981,420	£1,325,483	53.85%
Gateshead	£839,042	£117,296	£956,338	£255,943	30.50%
Gloucestershire	£925,583	£195,583	£1,121,166	£918,311	99.21%
Greenwich	£1,094,072	£231,186	£1,325,258	£550,405	50.31%
Hackney	£1,407,258	£297,364	£1,704,622		0.00%
Halton	£649,558	£137,257	£786,815		0.00%
Hampshire	£1,317,829	£278,467	£1,596,296	£557,229	42.28%
Haringey	£1,118,562	£236,361	£1,354,923	£270,710	24.20%
Harrow	£404,977	£85,575	£490,552	£124,785	30.81%

Local welfare provision review

Hartlepool	£532,270	£112,473	£644,743	£226,000	42.46%
Havering	£604,178	£127,667	£731,845	£149,837	24.80%
Herefordshire	£306,277	£127,667	£433,944		0.00%
Hertfordshire	£1,765,277	£373,016	£2,138,293	£754,652	42.75%
Hillingdon	£709,230	£149,866	£859,096	£324,426	45.74%
Hounslow	£599,028	£126,579	£725,607		0.00%
Isle of Wight Council	£344,271	£72,747	£417,018	£116,053	33.71%
Isles of Scilly			£0		#DIV/0!
Islington	£1,209,612	£255,600	£1,465,212	£1,419,742	117.37%
Kent	£2,863,798	£605,142	£3,468,940	£1,676,100	58.53%
Kingston upon Hull	£1,481,500	£313,052	£1,794,552	£1,481,500	100.00%
Kingston upon Thames	£244,788	£51,726	£296,514	£16,224	6.63%
Kirklees	£1,119,027	£236,459	£1,355,486	£753,024	67.29%
Knowsley	£1,043,213	£220,439	£1,263,652	£320,232	30.70%
Lambeth	£1,588,613	£335,686	£1,924,299	£1,391,861	87.61%
Lancashire	£2,936,800	£620,568	£3,557,368		0.00%
Leeds	£2,886,082	£609,851	£3,495,933		0.00%
Leicester	£1,606,825	£339,534	£1,946,359	£1,606,825	100.00%
Leicestershire	£886,854	£187,399	£1,074,253	£1,099,253	123.95%
Lewisham	£1,530,915	£323,494	£1,854,409	£235,839	15.41%
Lincolnshire	£1,487,187	£314,254	£1,801,441	£1,580,464	106.27%
Liverpool	£3,533,945	£746,749	£4,280,694	£2,689,349	76.10%
Luton	£510,573	£107,888	£618,461		0.00%
Manchester	£2,721,885	£575,155	£3,297,040	£1,355,939	49.82%
Medway	£663,252	£140,150	£803,402		0.00%
Merton	£366,911	£77,531	£444,442	£40,756	11.11%
Middlesbrough	£954,042	£201,596	£1,155,638	£941,832	98.72%
Milton Keynes	£747,067	£157,861	£904,928	£399,729	53.51%
Newcastle upon Tyne	£1,262,979	£266,877	£1,529,856	£652,981	51.70%
Newham	£1,060,966	£224,190	£1,285,156	£398,449	37.56%
Norfolk	£1,905,516	£402,650	£2,308,166		0.00%
North East Lincolnshire	£696,579	£147,192	£843,771		0.00%
North Lincolnshire	£452,585	£95,635	£548,220		0.00%
North Somerset	£419,518	£88,647	£508,165	£201,053	47.92%
North Tyneside	£716,790	£151,463	£868,253	£81,557	11.38%
North Yorkshire	£793,346	£167,640	£960,986	£636,043	80.17%
Northamptonshire	£1,678,473	£354,674	£2,033,147		0.00%
Northumberland	£869,822	£183,800	£1,053,622		0.00%
Nottingham	£1,826,780	£386,012	£2,212,792	£1,477,806	80.90%
Nottinghamshire	£1,784,916	£377,166	£2,162,082	£2,162,000	121.13%
Oldham	£856,548	£180,995	£1,037,543	£572,359	66.82%
Oxfordshire	£779,213	£164,654	£943,867	£943,867	121.13%
Peterborough	£663,666	£140,238	£803,904	£803,225	121.03%
Plymouth	£878,428	£185,618	£1,064,046	£1,045,090	118.97%
Poole	£208,198	£43,994	£252,192		0.00%
Portsmouth	£599,514	£126,682	£726,196		0.00%
Reading	£375,353	£79,315	£454,668		0.00%
Redbridge	£533,221	£112,674	£645,895	£149,313	28.00%
Redcar and Cleveland	£631,301	£133,399	£764,700		0.00%
Richmond upon Thames	£330,846	£69,910	£400,756		0.00%
Rochdale	£806,140	£170,343	£976,483	£377,302	46.80%
Rotherham	£773,427	£163,431	£936,858	£377,403	48.80%
Rutland	£23,116	£4,884	£28,000	£13,259	57.36%
Salford	£1,185,232	£250,448	£1,435,680		0.00%

Local welfare provision review

Sandwell	£1,332,354	£281,959	£1,614,313	£765,463	57.45%
Sefton	£955,455	£201,895	£1,157,350	£1,166,904	122.13%
Sheffield	£2,071,098	£437,638	£2,508,736		0.00%
Shropshire	£467,992	£98,890	£566,882		0.00%
Slough	£272,000	£57,476	£329,476	£107,321	39.46%
Solihull	£467,148	£98,712	£565,860	£219,408	46.97%
Somerset	£912,181	£192,751	£1,104,932	£310,775	34.07%
South Gloucestershire	£344,050	£72,700	£416,750	£253,247	73.61%
South Tyneside	£532,660	£112,555	£645,215		0.00%
Southampton	£540,104	£114,128	£654,232		0.00%
Southend-on-Sea	£504,548	£106,615	£611,163	£269,933	53.50%
Southwark	£1,362,932	£287,998	£1,650,930	£783,874	57.51%
St Helens	£632,563	£133,665	£766,228	£283,617	44.84%
Staffordshire	£1,475,587	£311,802	£1,787,389		0.00%
Stockport	£741,973	£156,784	£898,757		0.00%
Stockton-on-Tees	£743,244	£157,053	£900,297		0.00%
Stoke-on-Trent	£1,066,323	£225,322	£1,291,645	£215,194	20.18%
Suffolk	£1,463,161	£309,177	£1,772,338		0.00%
Sunderland	£1,202,316	£254,058	£1,456,374		0.00%
Surrey	£959,156	£202,677	£1,161,833	£526,739	54.92%
Sutton	£422,179	£89,210	£511,389		0.00%
Swindon	£436,520	£92,240	£528,760	£414,882	95.04%
Tameside	£900,528	£190,288	£1,090,816	£876,478	97.33%
Telford and the Wrekin	£486,724	£102,848	£589,572	£399,171	82.01%
Thurrock	£368,757	£77,921	£446,678	£153,918	41.74%
Torbay	£552,980	£116,849	£669,829	£252,606	45.68%
Tower Hamlets	£1,444,675	£305,271	£1,749,946		0.00%
Trafford	£464,142	£98,077	£562,219	£457,081	98.48%
Wakefield	£943,043	£199,272	£1,142,315		0.00%
Walsall	£1,098,510	£232,123	£1,330,633	£354,874	32.31%
Waltham Forest	£774,070	£163,567	£937,637	£422,173	54.54%
Wandsworth	£930,923	£196,711	£1,127,634		0.00%
Warrington	£552,524	£116,752	£669,276	£429,926	77.81%
Warwickshire	£943,130	£199,290	£1,142,420		0.00%
West Berkshire	£166,222	£35,124	£201,346	£127,384	76.63%
West Sussex	£1,030,763	£217,808	£1,248,571	£1,044,203	101.30%
Wigan	£991,278	£209,464	£1,200,742	£1,169,807	118.01%
Wiltshire	£619,057	£130,811	£749,868	£206,000	33.28%
Windsor and Maidenhead	£101,121	£21,368	£122,489		0.00%
Wirral	£1,345,925	£284,404	£1,630,329		0.00%
Wokingham	£77,213	£16,316	£93,529	£15,098	19.55%
Wolverhampton	£1,329,642	£280,963	£1,610,605	£1,075,655	80.90%
Worcestershire	£947,372	£200,187	£1,147,559	£1,147,559	121.13%
York	£315,141	£66,592	£381,733	£240,596	76.35%
Tri-Borough (H&F,K&C,W)	£1,860,875	£399,557	£2,260,432	£480,287	25.81%
GRAND TOTAL	£144,166,238	£30,473,118	£174,639,356	£67,752,394	47.00%
TOTAL OF RETURNS	£100,991,531	£21,287,031	£122,278,562	£67,752,394	67.09%

Note: Due to minimal Social Fund spend there the Isles of Scilly received no funding.

Annex E: Anticipated spend in 2014/15 by local authority

2014/15 Allocation and projection					
Local Authority	Programme Funding (AME)	Administration Funding (DEL)	Totals	Projected Spend	Variance %age
Barking and Dagenham	£766,521	£148,465	£914,986	£1,018,764	132.91%
Barnet	£799,385	£154,830	£954,215	£799,385	100.00%
Barnsley	£834,330	£161,598	£995,928		0.00%
Bath & North East Somerset	£249,260	£48,278	£297,538	£249,000	99.90%
Bedford	£399,829	£77,441	£477,270	£172,248	43.08%
Bexley	£500,127	£96,868	£596,995	£500,000	99.97%
Birmingham	£6,170,642	£1,195,168	£7,365,810	£4,100,000	66.44%
Blackburn with Darwen	£645,138	£124,954	£770,092		0.00%
Blackpool	£941,805	£182,415	£1,124,220	£941,805	100.00%
Bolton	£1,017,045	£196,987	£1,214,032	£1,017,000	100.00%
Bournemouth	£495,855	£96,040	£591,895	£519,000	104.67%
Bracknell Forest	£174,271	£33,754	£208,025	£52,000	29.84%
Bradford	£1,956,944	£379,033	£2,335,977	£1,812,238	92.61%
Brent	£855,509	£165,700	£1,021,209	£390,000	45.59%
Brighton & Hove	£629,487	£121,923	£751,410	£280,460	44.55%
Bristol	£1,564,735	£303,068	£1,867,803		0.00%
Bromley	£819,535	£158,732	£978,267		0.00%
Buckinghamshire	£479,510	£92,784	£572,294	£479,510	100.00%
Bury	£570,871	£110,570	£681,441		0.00%
Calderdale	£550,199	£106,556	£656,755	£550,000	99.96%
Cambridgeshire	£860,674	£166,701	£1,027,375	£860,674	100.00%
Camden	£856,465	£165,885	£1,022,350	£817,976	95.51%
Central Bedfordshire	£355,903	£68,934	£424,837	£424,837	119.37%
Cheshire East	£612,032	£118,542	£730,574	£417,000	68.13%
Cheshire West & Chester	£755,020	£146,237	£901,257	£814,000	107.81%
City of London	£20,994	£4,066	£25,060		0.00%
Cornwall	£985,074	£190,795	£1,175,869		0.00%
County Durham	£1,592,057	£308,359	£1,900,416	£1,454,935	91.39%
Coventry	£1,195,974	£231,644	£1,427,618	£1,195,972	100.00%
Croydon	£1,151,867	£223,101	£1,374,968	£1,120,988	97.32%
Cumbria	£1,148,229	£222,396	£1,370,625		0.00%
Darlington	£407,270	£78,883	£486,153	£407,268	100.00%
Derby	£986,595	£191,090	£1,177,685	£986,595	100.00%
Derbyshire	£1,531,041	£296,541	£1,827,582	£1,261,680	82.41%
Devon	£1,127,174	£218,318	£1,345,492	£1,335,492	118.48%
Doncaster	£914,324	£177,092	£1,091,416		0.00%
Dorset	£499,426	£96,732	£596,158		0.00%
Dudley	£693,159	£134,255	£827,414	£693,156	100.00%
Ealing	£867,493	£168,021	£1,035,514	£867,480	100.00%
East Riding of Yorkshire	£557,071	£107,897	£664,968	£557,068	100.00%
East Sussex	£992,468	£192,227	£1,184,695	£992,468	100.00%
Enfield	£910,673	£176,385	£1,087,058		0.00%
Essex	£2,461,324	£476,724	£2,938,048	£2,938,048	119.37%
Gateshead	£839,042	£162,511	£1,001,553	£839,042	100.00%
Gloucestershire	£925,583	£179,273	£1,104,856	£1,104,856	119.37%
Greenwich	£1,094,072	£211,907	£1,305,979	£700,000	63.98%
Hackney	£1,407,258	£272,566	£1,679,824		0.00%
Halton	£649,558	£125,810	£775,368		0.00%
Hampshire	£1,317,829	£255,245	£1,573,074		0.00%
Haringey	£1,118,562	£216,650	£1,335,212	£1,100,000	98.34%
Harrow	£404,977	£78,438	£483,415	£400,000	98.77%

Local welfare provision review

Hartlepool	£532,270	£103,093	£635,363	£180,000	33.82%
Havering	£604,178	£117,021	£721,199	£144,202	23.87%
Herefordshire	£306,277	£117,021	£423,298		0.00%
Hertfordshire	£1,765,277	£341,910	£2,107,187		0.00%
Hillingdon	£709,230	£137,368	£846,598	£709,230	100.00%
Hounslow	£599,028	£116,023	£715,051		0.00%
Isle of Wight Council	£344,271	£66,680	£410,951	£324,000	94.11%
Isles of Scilly	£0		£0		#DIV/0!
Islington	£1,209,612	£234,285	£1,443,897	£1,286,612	106.37%
Kent	£2,863,798	£554,678	£3,418,476	£3,387,432	118.28%
Kingston upon Hull	£1,481,500	£286,946	£1,768,446	£1,481,500	100.00%
Kingston upon Thames	£244,788	£47,412	£292,200	£19,469	7.95%
Kirklees	£1,119,027	£216,740	£1,335,767	£1,498,688	133.93%
Knowsley	£1,043,213	£202,056	£1,245,269	£326,000	31.25%
Lambeth	£1,588,613	£307,692	£1,896,305	£2,430,000	152.96%
Lancashire	£2,936,800	£568,818	£3,505,618		0.00%
Leeds	£2,886,082	£558,994	£3,445,076		0.00%
Leicester	£1,606,825	£311,220	£1,918,045	£1,606,825	100.00%
Leicestershire	£886,854	£171,771	£1,058,625	£1,083,625	122.19%
Lewisham	£1,530,915	£296,517	£1,827,432		0.00%
Lincolnshire	£1,487,187	£288,047	£1,775,234	£1,775,236	119.37%
Liverpool	£3,533,945	£684,476	£4,218,421	£3,533,944	100.00%
Luton	£510,573	£98,891	£609,464		0.00%
Manchester	£2,721,885	£527,191	£3,249,076	£2,500,000	91.85%
Medway	£663,252	£128,463	£791,715		0.00%
Merton	£366,911	£71,066	£437,977	£370,000	100.84%
Middlesbrough	£954,042	£184,785	£1,138,827	£950,000	99.58%
Milton Keynes	£747,067	£144,697	£891,764	£742,000	99.32%
Newcastle upon Tyne	£1,262,979	£244,622	£1,507,601	£532,494	42.16%
Newham	£1,060,966	£205,494	£1,266,460	£560,966	52.87%
Norfolk	£1,905,516	£369,072	£2,274,588		0.00%
North East Lincolnshire	£696,579	£134,918	£831,497		0.00%
North Lincolnshire	£452,585	£87,659	£540,517		0.00%
North Somerset	£419,518	£81,255	£500,773	£391,597	93.34%
North Tyneside	£716,790	£138,832	£855,622	£100,000	13.95%
North Yorkshire	£793,346	£153,660	£947,006	£793,346	100.00%
Northamptonshire	£1,678,473	£325,097	£2,003,570		0.00%
Northumberland	£869,822	£168,473	£1,038,295		0.00%
Nottingham	£1,826,780	£353,822	£2,180,602	£1,826,000	99.96%
Nottinghamshire	£1,784,916	£345,713	£2,130,629	£2,131,000	119.39%
Oldham	£856,548	£165,901	£1,022,449	£742,000	86.63%
Oxfordshire	£779,213	£150,923	£930,136	£930,165	119.37%
Peterborough	£663,666	£128,543	£792,209	£792,209	119.37%
Plymouth	£878,428	£170,139	£1,048,567	£349,522	39.79%
Poole	£208,198	£40,325	£248,523		0.00%
Portsmouth	£599,514	£116,118	£715,632		0.00%
Reading	£375,353	£72,701	£448,054		0.00%
Redbridge	£533,221	£103,278	£636,499		0.00%
Redcar and Cleveland	£631,301	£122,274	£753,575		0.00%
Richmond upon Thames	£330,846	£64,080	£394,926		0.00%
Rochdale	£806,140	£156,138	£962,278	£52,000	6.45%
Rotherham	£773,427	£149,802	£923,229	£377,403	48.80%
Rutland	£23,116	£4,477	£27,593	£23,000	99.50%
Salford	£1,185,232	£229,563	£1,414,795		0.00%

Local welfare provision review

Sandwell	£1,332,354	£258,446	£1,590,800	£1,300,000	97.57%
Sefton	£955,455	£185,058	£1,140,513	£1,139,309	119.24%
Sheffield	£2,071,098	£401,143	£2,472,241		0.00%
Shropshire	£467,992	£90,644	£558,636		0.00%
Slough	£272,000	£52,683	£324,683	£272,000	100.00%
Solihull	£467,148	£90,480	£557,628	£460,000	98.47%
Somerset	£912,181	£176,677	£1,088,858	£366,470	40.18%
South Gloucestershire	£344,050	£66,638	£410,688	£370,000	107.54%
South Tyneside	£532,660	£103,169	£635,829		0.00%
Southampton	£540,104	£104,611	£644,715		0.00%
Southend-on-Sea	£504,548	£97,724	£602,272	£504,000	99.89%
Southwark	£1,362,932	£263,981	£1,626,913	£1,130,000	82.91%
St Helens	£632,563	£122,519	£755,082	£400,000	63.23%
Staffordshire	£1,475,587	£285,801	£1,761,388		0.00%
Stockport	£741,973	£143,710	£885,683		0.00%
Stockton-on-Tees	£743,244	£143,956	£887,200		0.00%
Stoke-on-Trent	£1,066,323	£206,532	£1,272,855	£1,055,000	98.94%
Suffolk	£1,463,161	£283,394	£1,746,555		0.00%
Sunderland	£1,202,316	£232,872	£1,435,188		0.00%
Surrey	£959,156	£185,775	£1,144,931	£1,233,849	128.64%
Sutton	£422,179	£81,770	£503,949		0.00%
Swindon	£436,520	£84,548	£521,068	£520,000	119.12%
Tameside	£900,528	£174,420	£1,074,948	£1,260,000	139.92%
Telford and the Wrekin	£486,724	£94,272	£580,996	£486,723	100.00%
Thurrock	£368,757	£71,423	£440,180	£368,757	100.00%
Torbay	£552,980	£107,105	£660,085	£408,750	73.92%
Tower Hamlets	£1,444,675	£279,814	£1,724,489		0.00%
Trafford	£464,142	£89,898	£554,040	£453,609	97.73%
Wakefield	£943,043	£182,564	£1,125,607		0.00%
Walsall	£1,098,510	£212,766	£1,311,276	£500,000	45.52%
Waltham Forest	£774,070	£149,927	£923,997		0.00%
Wandsworth	£930,923	£180,307	£1,111,230		0.00%
Warrington	£552,524	£107,016	£659,540	£550,000	99.54%
Warwickshire	£943,130	£182,671	£1,125,801		0.00%
West Berkshire	£166,222	£32,195	£198,417		0.00%
West Sussex	£1,030,763	£199,645	£1,230,408	£1,224,000	118.75%
Wigan	£991,278	£191,997	£1,183,275	£1,217,376	122.81%
Wiltshire	£619,057	£119,903	£738,960	£223,000	36.02%
Windsor and Maidenhead	£101,121	£19,586	£120,707		0.00%
Wirral	£1,345,925	£260,687	£1,606,612		0.00%
Wokingham	£77,213	£14,955	£92,168	£76,186	98.67%
Wolverhampton	£1,329,642	£257,533	£1,587,175	£1,340,000	100.78%
Worcestershire	£947,372	£183,493	£1,130,865	£1,135,038	119.81%
York	£315,141	£61,039	£376,180	£315,141	100.00%
Tri-Borough (H&F,K&C,W)	£1,860,875	£366,237	£2,227,112	£540,325	29.04%
GRAND TOTAL	£144,166,238	£27,986,713	£172,153,224	£86,970,943	60.33%
TOTAL OF RETURNS	£100,991,531	£19,566,760	£120,558,291	£86,970,943	86.12%

Note: Due to minimal Social Fund spend there the Isles of Scilly did not receive any funding.