

RESIDENTS SUPPORT SCHEME GRANT

The Residents Support Scheme Grant is able to offer temporary financial support to local residents facing severe difficulties for reasons such as changes to welfare benefits, or personal issues. Age UK Islington can support clients facing hardship with making an application to receive the grant.

ABOUT THE GRANT

The grant can provide temporary financial support and other additional support services.

Support that's provided

- **Temporary financial support** - includes help with household items; housing costs; removal expenses; employment costs; living expenses i.e. food/heating; and outstanding Council Tax.
- **Income and benefits** - includes checking for additional benefit entitlement; money advice; and financial capability programmes.
- **Education, training, and employment opportunities** - includes supporting applicants who need to improve their educational/vocational qualifications or for those who need help with employment opportunities.
- **Excluded items of support** - the scheme, however, does not provide support for clothing (except in cases of cases where, e.g. it is needed to help someone start work); issues that are the landlord's responsibility e.g. structural repairs; furniture and household items; specialist disability equipment or adaptations (all applications should instead be referred to occupational therapy or refer to the National Health Service provision for wheelchairs); debts; and funeral expenses.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Grants are awarded on the basis of the client's level of risk, rather than those simply in need** - includes residents requiring

statutory intervention and those already in contact with Statutory Services.

- **Risk criteria** - includes homelessness or a risk of being homeless; breakdown of family cohesion/stability (including domestic violence); health deterioration; loss of independence; and unemployment.
- **The scheme also focuses on residents with underlying vulnerabilities** - includes old age; physical disabilities; long-term limiting health conditions; mental health issues; learning disabilities; responsibility for dependent children; pregnancy; domestic violence; substance/alcohol misuse; and single young people establishing themselves, including care leavers.
- **Residency** - the applicant must be a resident of the borough, placed in housing outside the borough by the London Borough of Islington, or be providing a function that is supported by Islington, e.g. foster care.
- **Income** - a person must be on low income without the means to meet the needs requested, which would be shown by being in receipt of a specified range of means tested benefits or equivalents.
- **Immigration status** - the scheme is open to those who have recourse to public funds only.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Applications can be made through** voluntary sector organisations, e.g. Age UK Islington.
- **Disability referral** - residents who are housebound will be able to arrange a home visit through the Islington Council's Visiting Team to make an application. Call 020 7527 4990 to arrange a visit.

HOW IT WILL BE PAID

- The scheme's payment methods include a payment card, payment to direct suppliers, payment direct to landlords/housing associations, reducing council tax liability, grocery vouchers, and fuel payments.

NEXT STEPS

- Contact Age UK Islington to arrange an appointment.
- We will provide information and discuss your eligibility.
- We can support clients to submit their applications and provide follow-up support to inform them of the outcome of their request.