

Local Emergency Support

Type of help available

From 1st April 2013, residents within Buckinghamshire will be able to apply to the Council for Local Emergency Support. The Council will then make a decision based on the individual circumstances of each resident.

The Council will try to help meet the needs of the resident through practical support. For example:

- We will make direct referrals to suppliers to provide services or quality, second-hand goods.
- Make direct payments to utility companies to apply gas or electricity credit to the customer's account.

Eligibility

Local Emergency Support will be given where:

1. There has been an unforeseeable serious emergency or crisis; and failure to give Local Emergency Support will mean there is a significant risk of harm coming to the individual or their family.

Or

2. The person requires help moving into, or staying in the community and that providing help will eliminate the need for statutory care.

To qualify for Local Emergency Support, the person must be:

- A resident in Buckinghamshire.
- On a low income or have no income.
- In receipt of means-tested benefits and/or tax credits.
- Where they do not have the personal means, or cannot get access to the means to address the crisis or emergency.

Local Emergency Support

Circumstances where no award will be issued

Unfortunately the Council will not be able to help people in the following circumstances:

1. Residents whose need could be met through eligibility to any of the following schemes:
 - DWP budgeting loans
 - DWP benefit aligning payments
 - DWP statutory social fund payments (e.g. Winter Fuel Allowance, Sure Start Maternity Grants or Funeral Payments)
 - The requirements under Fair Access to Care Services (FACS); for example, the statutory duty to provide medical or disability equipment
2. Applications from residents who are under 16 years old
3. Residents with capital in excess of £500.
4. Individuals lawfully detained or on release on temporary release.
5. To fund rent in advance/rental deposits.
6. An educational or training need including clothing/tools.
7. Debts to Governmental departments, Local Authorities or Utility Companies.
8. Garaging, parking, purchase and running costs of any motor vehicle except where a payment is being considered for emergency travel expenses.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other circumstances where no award will be issued.

How to apply

If you think you are eligible for Local Emergency Support then all claims can be made via the Council's dedicated telephone number highlighted below:

0845 505 1121



**Leaflet produced
March 2013**