

Factsheet B26: Other Support – Local Assistance Scheme (which replaced the discretionary Social Fund)

The discretionary part of the Social Fund was replaced from April 2013. There are still some parts of the Social Fund that continue, for example payments for maternity, heating (cold weather and winter fuel allowances) and funeral expenses. The discretionary part used to include Crisis Loans, Community Care Grants and Budgeting Loans.

The new scheme for discretionary payments is now run by Norfolk County Council and is called the Local Assistance Scheme.

People will be asked a set of questions to check if they can get an award and will be given priority if they:

- Are Norfolk residents, aged over 16
- Are already receiving an income related benefit
- Have dependent children
- Have a disability or mental health problem
- Are fleeing domestic violence.

If they can get an award, it will be a grant rather than a loan. Usually they will be given a voucher to buy whatever it is that they need. If you are refused, the local authority should tell you alternative local places where you might be able to get help.



Usually, people will only be able to receive one award in any twelve month period.

You can get further information from:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-to-stay-at-home/local-assistance-scheme>

If you require further information or would like this Factsheet in an alternative format you can contact us by calling: 01508 491210, by emailing:

info@equallives.org.uk, or by writing to: Equal Lives, 15 Manor Farm Barns, Fox Road, Framingham Pigot, Norfolk, NR14 7PZ.

