

Children's Services Department Departmental Management Team

Minutes

Date: 4 November 2025

Attendees: Carolyn Fair (Chair) Jessica Stubbings for item 5
Lou Carter
Deborah Ennis
Honor Green
Elizabeth Funge
Kathy Marriott

Apologies: None

	Item	Action by
5.	Crisis and Resilience Fund: what we know so far	
5.1	Jessica Stubbings joined DMT for the discussion.	
5.2	Key points noted: I. In the June 2025 the Government announced plans for a new Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF), which would replace the current Household Support Fund (HSF) and would incorporate funding for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). II. DMT noted the vision of the CRF as outlined in the report. The aim to is move away from crisis management to being more resilient. III. JS highlighted a risk around reducing or stopping support that has been in place through HSF that appear to be meeting ongoing need and may have created an expectancy and dependency. This includes HUGGG food vouchers for children eligible for free school meals in the school holidays. DWP have indicated that a large scale voucher scheme targeting this cohort will not be eligible under the new guidance. IV. DMT agreed JS recommendation of holding a workshop for the 3 teams that receive money from this fund which are Through Care, Family Focus and Locality, and then bring back a paper to DMT in January 2026. LC confirmed we also need to look at how this links with the HAF programme. V. Noted if vouchers are to be discontinued, they need to be phased out so families still receive them in Christmas 25 and Easter 2026.	
5.3	JS to take forward actions.	JS