

Your request and our response are set out below.

Request and Response

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following recorded information relating to East Sussex County Council's administration of the Crisis & Resilience Fund.

Please provide:

1. All policies, reports, briefing papers, guidance, meeting minutes, presentations and other recorded information explaining how East Sussex County Council intends to comply with paragraph 44 of the Department for Work and Pensions' Crisis & Resilience Fund Guidance, which states that authorities should use their discretion to ensure the poorest children do not go hungry during the school holidays.

All policies and guidance

We do not hold this information as there are no local policy or guidance documents explaining this.

Reports and minutes presentations

Please see attached documents:

- CRF report DMT 4 November 2025; and
- DMT 04 11 25 – Minutes CRF

Crisis and Resilience Fund Update

The Departmental Management Team (DMT) agreed the recommendation to note the forthcoming end of Household Support Fund and introduction of a new Crisis & Resilience Fund, and:

- a. Note the opportunities and risks set out in this report;
- b. Support and comment on the direction of travel and next steps.

We are still waiting on guidance and confirmation of funding, until we have an allocation the figure and process could change, therefore we do not currently hold this information.

Please see attached documents:

- Children's Services DMT reports and minutes January 2026

- DMT Report Crisis Resilience Fund 13.01
- Appendix 1 CSD CRF areas for development
- Minutes CSD DMT 13.01.26
- DMT reports and minutes February 2026
 - CRF Delivery Framework CSD DMT
 - Appendix 1 East Sussex CRF Delivery
 - DMT 03 02 26 – Minutes CRF
 - CRF Delivery Framework ASCH

Crisis and Resilience Fund

DMT noted the report:

- Flagged The report has been to CSD DMT with significant engagement already. It will now go to CMT and LM for C&F and ASCH.
- Agreed to provide quarterly reporting and DMT updates for the first two quarters, then review the approach.
- Previously agreed a £90k admin fee for delivering HSF. CRF is expected to require more administration across ASC, PH and CSD. Costs are estimates for now; will confirm staffing budget implications.
- Proposed that future oversight shifts from DMT to MAFISG, with the reference group likely evolving into a Steering Group under MAFISG, potentially becoming an oversight board.
- A key change is the end of Hugge vouchers, though we've committed to continuing them for the next two school holidays to phase out support.
- Once LM reports are published, we can begin work with partners and legal similar to the HSF process. Aim to be operational by July. £850k of Hugge vouchers are scheduled from 1 April, acknowledging the usual time lag before support reaches residents. Future years should run more smoothly after Year 1 setup.
- Agreed to arrange a members briefing potentially April/May — SD to follow up.

DMT noted the background to CRF and the work that is completed and ongoing to develop our local East Sussex CRF Delivery Plan, and agreed in principle to the overall approach and high-level Delivery Plan Framework, noting that detail will be further developed and appropriate approvals sought for specific elements of the scheme. ASCH DMT – 10 February 2026

Corporate Management Team (CMT) report and minutes February 2026:

- Please see attached files:
 - CRF Delivery Framework CMT

CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND – EAST SUSSEX DELIVERY PLAN FRAMEWORK

This report was introduced and outlined the nature of the Crisis and Resilience Fund which is replacing the HSF.

It was noted that the CRF will be comprised of different components, with three primary funding aims for crisis payments, resilience services and community coordination.

CMT was informed that communications have not yet gone out on the plan but that consultations are underway. It was noted that once the Plan is underway there will need to be close communication with the Ds and Bs on the distribution of the 4 funds.

CMT noted the:

1. background to CRF and the work that is completed and ongoing to develop our local East Sussex CRF Delivery Plan; and
2. overall approach and high-level Delivery Plan Framework, noting that detail will be further developed and appropriate approvals sought for specific elements of the scheme

Please see attached files:

- Children's Services delivery plan:
 - East Sussex CSD CRF Delivery Plan
- Report on Transition Risk:
 - CRF Transition Risk 020626 v2 (003)

Public reports and minutes:

[Agenda for Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health on Friday, 20th March, 2026, 10.00 am | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Agenda for Lead Member for Children and Families on Monday, 23rd March, 2026, 3.45 pm | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Agenda for Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health on Friday, 19th June, 2026, 9.00 am | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Agenda for Lead Member for Children and Families on Monday, 22nd June, 2026, 1.15 pm | East Sussex County Council](#)

Member Briefings:

- Please see attached files:
 - CRF – Member Briefing 01 April 2026
 - Member briefing – changes to the nation

Professional briefings:

- Please see attached files
 - Crisis and resilience fund – signposting
 - Alternative to holiday food vouchers

School Briefings:

- Please see attached files
 - May VSB – HUGGG Vouchers to finish
 - June VSB – HUGGG Vouchers end – alternative

2. Any documents setting out how the Council identifies children or families considered to be 'the poorest' for the purposes of paragraph 44.

Relevant data which is used for planning can be found here:

[East Sussex in Figures – Data Observatory – Welcome to East Sussex in Figures](#)

[Annual report 2025 to 2026 | East Sussex County Council](#)

3. Any monitoring framework, performance measures, reports or other recorded information used to assess whether the Council's approach is ensuring that the poorest children do not go hungry during school holidays.

DWP monitoring framework:

[Crisis and Resilience Fund \(1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029\) - GOV.UK](#)

Please see attached files:

- Final Crisis and Resilience Fund MI Team
- Partner Survey:
 - Snapshot_East Sussex Food Support

4. Any Equality Impact Assessment, Child Poverty Impact Assessment or Risk Assessment relating to the implementation of paragraph 44 or the decision to end the holiday food voucher scheme.

Please see attached files:

- CRF Log:
 - CRF Project risk log v7
- CRF EqIA:
 - EQIA – Crisis and Resilience Fund - Aug

Where we have provided links to information online, please note section 21 Freedom of Information Act provides that where information is reasonably accessible to the applicant elsewhere then the duty to provide it upon request is removed.

Please note, third-party personal data has been removed from the attached documents as it is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.