



North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund Update Bulletin for Agencies August 2018



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Save the Date – NYLAF Stakeholder Workshop (25th September)

Now in the fifth year, the annual Stakeholder Workshop provides an excellent opportunity to provide some key information and data, as well as for North Yorkshire County Council and Connect Assist to hear feedback and invite suggestions from Authorised Agents about the Fund.

The date for the Workshop is Tuesday 25th September and it will take place in the morning at County Hall, Northallerton. An invitation to attend will be circulated closer to the time.

Impact Study

As you may have been aware the Council recently procured an external agency to conduct an impact evaluation of the Fund, considering the impact on both partners and applicants. Many thanks to those of you who contributed to the study, we received a total of 84 unique responses from partners to the survey, as well as 23 applicants who were interviewed. The main findings of the report will be discussed at the Stakeholder Workshop in September and the report will also be published on our website for those who are unable to attend.

Furniture Re-Use Stores

There are many furniture re-use stores and schemes across the county that can offer a wide range of refurbished and second hand furniture, household and white good items (often including delivery), at a low cost.

You can find a leaflet below that provides a comprehensive list of the stores in North Yorkshire as well as what they offer.

Leaflet: [Furniture Re-Use Stores](#)

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

In order to comply with the new legislation introduced earlier this year and to ensure that any changes do not impact significantly on the application process, changes have been made to the initial and final declaration on the application forms to seek confirmation that the applicant is aware of why the Fund is collecting their data.

You should inform the applicant that the Fund will be collecting their data for the purpose of confirming their eligibility for support from the Fund. If the applicant wishes to see further information, including the Fund's privacy notice, before starting an application this can be found on the Council's website here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notice> (please note this link is also on the application forms).

Audit Days

There have been a number of incidents recently where an application has been flagged for audit but no documentation confirming eligibility was seen by the Authorised Agent prior to submitting the application. This has led to long delays approving applications while documentation is sourced.

5% of all non-emergency applications are audited to confirm the applicant's eligibility and to check that the correct process has been followed. Please note that if audit documentation has not been provided within 10 working days and no extension has been requested because there is an issue providing the documentation then the application will be declined and the applicant unable to apply again for 12 months.

Throughout September there will be an increase in the number of applications pulled up for audit.

Warm and Well

Warm and Well is a partnership of charities and organisations across North Yorkshire working together to offer practical and financial solutions to tackle and reduce levels of fuel poverty. Support is available all year round, although it is expected that the majority of referrals will be made between September – March.

Support is aimed at those on low incomes, benefits, families with small children, people with disabilities and long term health conditions, and vulnerable older people. If you know someone who might be eligible you can make a referral on their behalf, or individuals can self-refer. Please use the contact details below:

Phone: 01609 767555

Email: wnw@northyorkslca.org.uk

Website and referral form: warmandwell.org.uk

BBC Children in Need: Emergency Essentials Programme

Family Fund Business Services are working in collaboration with BBC Children in Need to deliver the Emergency Essentials Programme supporting children and young people living with severe poverty as well as additional pressures such as domestic violence, disability or poor health in the family.

The Emergency Essentials Programme can provide household items including white goods, furniture, baby equipment, and clothing (in exceptional circumstances). The Programme can help children:

- Up to the age of 18
- Who are UK or EU citizens normally resident in the UK
- Who are vulnerable or experiencing a crisis or emergency.

Applications are by referral only, you will need to register in order to make applications on behalf of families and young people. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

Next Application Date

To ensure that the Fund is used appropriately please do not inform applicants of the date on which they can apply again in the future. We would like to deter instances of 'yearly' applications and applicants who are 'marking the date in diaries'.

Applications are led by the Authorised Agents to support those in genuine need and it is for the Authorised Agent to determine if an application should be submitted, not the applicant.

Enquiries: nylaf@northyorks.gov.uk

Public information: www.northyorks.gov.uk/nylaf

Partner updates: www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nylaf