

COVID-19 Local Welfare Assistance in Kent



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Overview of Kent Approach...



- **£63m** of funding nationally from DEFRA for food / essentials
- This equated to **£1.67m** in Kent
- Joint Kent Chief Execs / Kent Finance Officers agreement
- Initial food need had been overtaken by **financial hardship**
- **£200k to VCS** for hardship grants to key orgs
- Remainder split **50:50** County & Districts
- County directed resource at **Kent Support & Assistance Service**
- Also targeted work by **Health Visitors** – families in poverty

Tailored Local Approach...



- Districts best placed to use **local knowledge** dynamically
- **£735k** shared between 12 Districts
- All provided **emergency funds** to individuals and foodbanks
- Local flexibility also enabled a **tailored approach** including:
 - **Homelessness** and those starting a new tenancy
 - Support for **Alzheimer's and Dementia** support service
 - Volunteer drivers and community **transport schemes**
 - Befriending services/reducing **social isolation**
 - **Debt** and financial hardship advice

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