

To parents/carers of children in  
Cambridgeshire Early Years Settings

People & Communities  
Education Directorate

Dear parent/carer

In November, the government announced funding for Local Authorities for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. This grant is intended to provide a range of support over Christmas and February half term for those families who need additional support at this challenging time.

We are making two offers for families –

### **1. Direct Food Voucher Scheme**

A supermarket voucher will be made available to parents who meet the criteria for;

- Funded Education for 2-year-olds under the income based criteria (children age 2)
- Early Years Pupil Premium under the income based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)

A detailed list of criteria is attached to this letter (appendix 1). Your early years setting will be able to tell you if your child fits this criteria.

It is our intention to automatically issue each eligible child with a supermarket voucher for £15 each week of the Christmas holidays. We will use information held by the Local Authority to allocate the vouchers using a system called Wonde. They can be issued either by email or text. Details of the supported supermarkets and how Wonde works can be found in appendix 2. All vouchers issued in December will expire on **31 January 2021**.

If you **do not** wish to receive a food voucher or have any queries about this scheme or if you do not receive your voucher by the 18th December and meet the criteria, please contact the COVID 19 Coordination Hub directly by emailing [communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or phoning 0345 045 5219.

### **2. Accessing additional support for families**

We understand that families who are eligible for the Direct Food Voucher Scheme may need further support. We also know there will be families who don't meet the above criteria but are in need of help.

We can provide support with any of the following:

- Access to Food
- Utility bills
- Household items relating to warmth, hygiene, and cooking

If you need additional support with any of these, please complete the simple online form below –

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport)

Once you have submitted the form, the COVID-19 Coordination Hub will be in touch to discuss what support is available. If you are unable to complete the online form please call the Hub on 0345 045 5219, and they can complete the form with you.

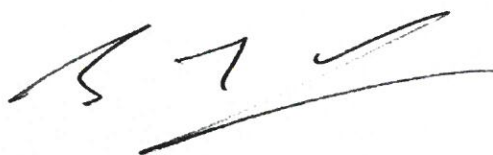
The welfare of our children and young people will always be our top priority. If you or your family needs support over the winter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us and we will do our best to help.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Simon Bywater  
Chairman of the Children and Young People  
Committee



Councillor Steve Criswell  
Chairman of the Communities & Partnership  
Committee

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Cllr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council  
Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive – Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

## Appendix 1 – Eligibility for Direct Voucher Scheme

### Parents eligible for Funded Education for 2-year-olds under the income based criteria (children age 2)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

### Parents eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium under the income based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- support under [part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- the guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

<https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>