
Report to: Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 11 August 2022

Subject: Eligibility Criteria for Footwear and Clothing grants

Report by: Strategic Director (People)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to change the Council's policy in relation to the income threshold for awarding footwear and clothing grants.. This will bring it in line with neighbouring Councils and ensure more parents can benefit from this funding.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that
- 2.2. The Council approves the revised criteria and agrees that the criteria should be updated annually based on the changes in thresholds that the Government set for eligibility for free school meal.
- 2.3. The revised criteria are introduced for the 2022-23 academic session and that claims currently received are reviewed.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 The eligibility criteria for footwear and clothing grants and the grant level are set by each local authority. This is in contrast to free school meals eligibility criteria which are set by the UK Government. In recent years, the Scottish Government has provided additional funding for authorities to pay a minimum grant level which is £120 for primary age children and £150 for secondary age children up until age 16. These are the rates paid by Clackmannanshire. Secondary age children aged 16 or over are eligible to apply for an education maintenance allowance of £30 per week
- 3.2 Information from neighbouring local authorities has revealed that most allow parents who are in receipt of both child tax credit and working tax credit to be eligible for the grant if they have earnings up to £17,005, but in Clackmannanshire the income threshold is the same as the eligibility criteria for free school meals which is £7,920.

- 3.3 Since applications for clothing grants and free school meals for 2022/23 were opened in June the Council has received 929 applications and 80 of these were rejected as they were above the income threshold. There will be parents who have not applied as their income was above the threshold.

Footwear & Clothing Grant Criteria 2022/23

	Council					
	Clacks	Stirling	Falkirk	W. Dumbar ton	Glasgow City	Edinburgh City
Income Support (IS)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) income based	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) income related	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Support under Part VI of the immigration & asylum act 1000	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Child Tax Credit (CTC) but NOT Working Tax Credit (WTC) with annual income of less than £17,005	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Both CTC & WTC with annual income up to £7,920	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Both CTC & WTC with annual income up to £17,005	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Universal Credit (UC) where earned income threshold is above £660	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Universal Credit (UC) where earned income not more than £660	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. No sustainability implications are identified.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1. No resource implications are identified.

6.0 Financial Details

- 6.1. The number of parents who become eligible if the changes are approved is not known, but based on the experience of other local authorities who currently have this criteria it is estimated that the value of the total grants paid in the financial year would be £241,000 which if it were to transpire would cause the budget to be overspent by £8,000. Any overspend would be managed within the budget delegated to the Strategic Director.
- 6.2. Given the level of deprivation in Clackmannanshire, the reputational risk to the council in being out of line is considerable

7.0 Exempt Reports

- 7.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

- 8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No X

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes No

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none". None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director of People	