



Western Area Outcomes Group

Funding 2021/22

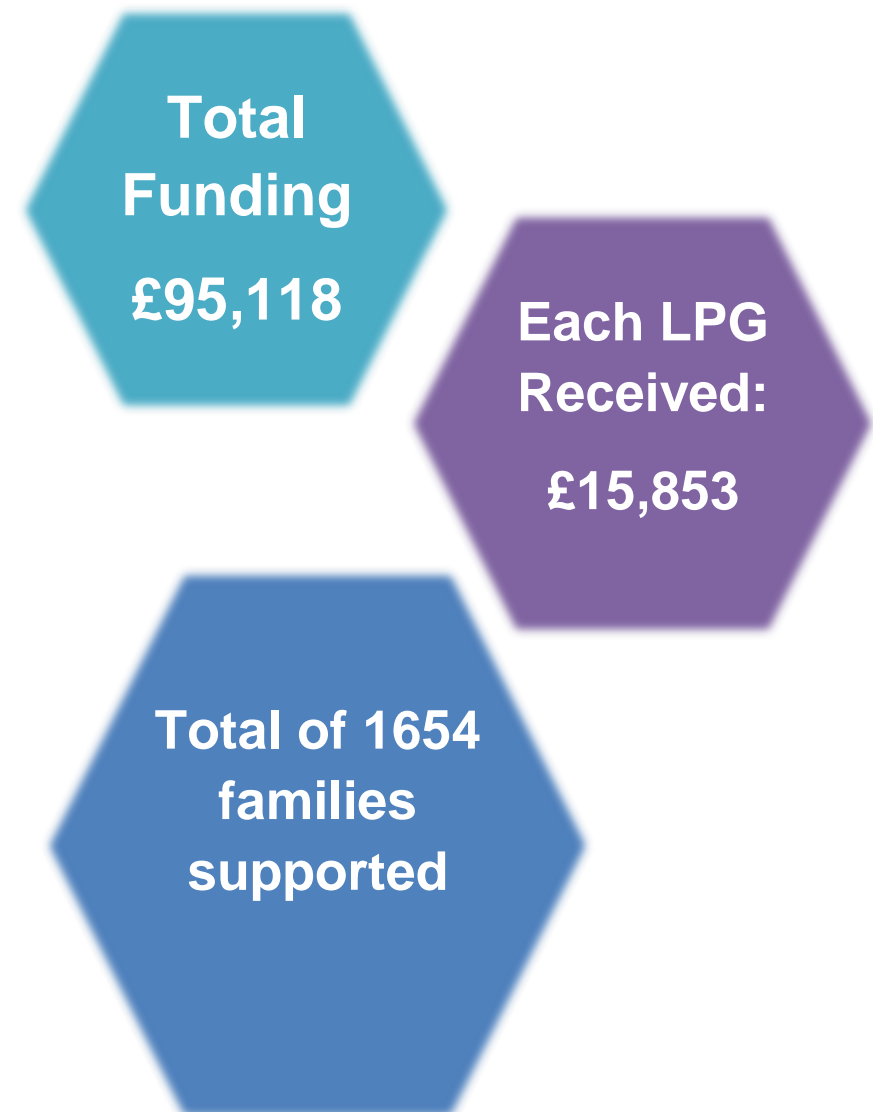
Introduction

The Western Area Outcomes Group (WOAG) committed the 2021/22 funding to helping families struggling to heat their homes or provide food for their families during the ongoing cost of living crisis. The Outcomes Group recognises that this is a short term fix to an issue that needs top down sustainable solutions.

Approach

The WAOG consulted with the Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Chairs to plan the most straightforward way to provide funding to families in need. The chairs agreed that one lead organisation would manage the process. They agreed to do this in-kind therefore allowing all the funding to reach families. Each area took a slightly different approach to distributing the funding, using the best solution for the local need, taking into account issues such as rurality, type of fuel most common in the area, access to shops etc. In some areas members took the opportunity to distribute useful information to families receiving the financial help.

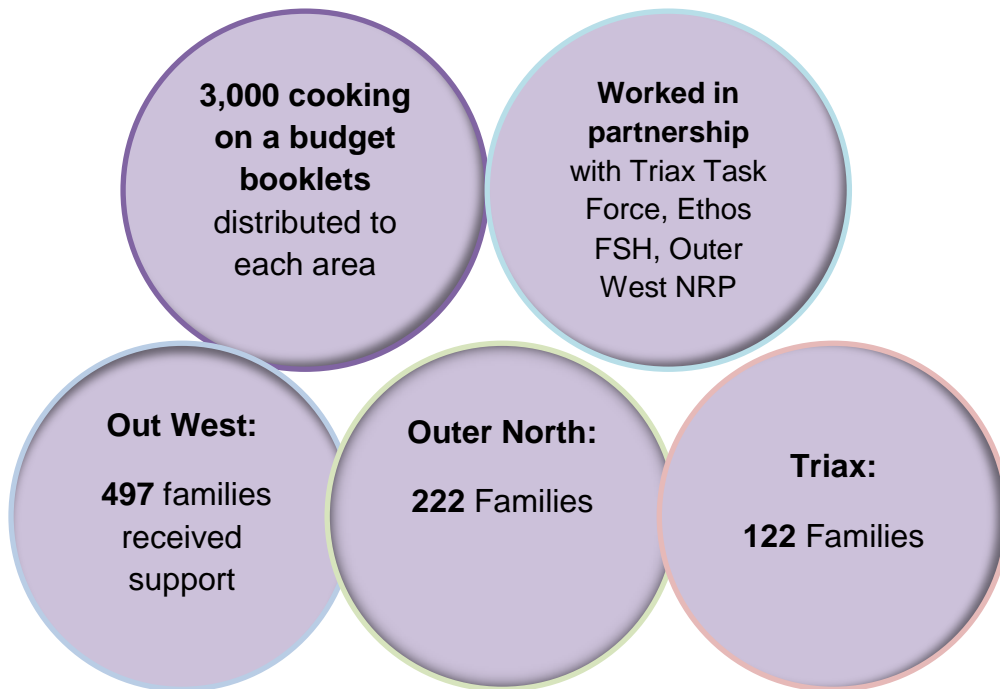
How Much Did We Do



How Well Did We Do It

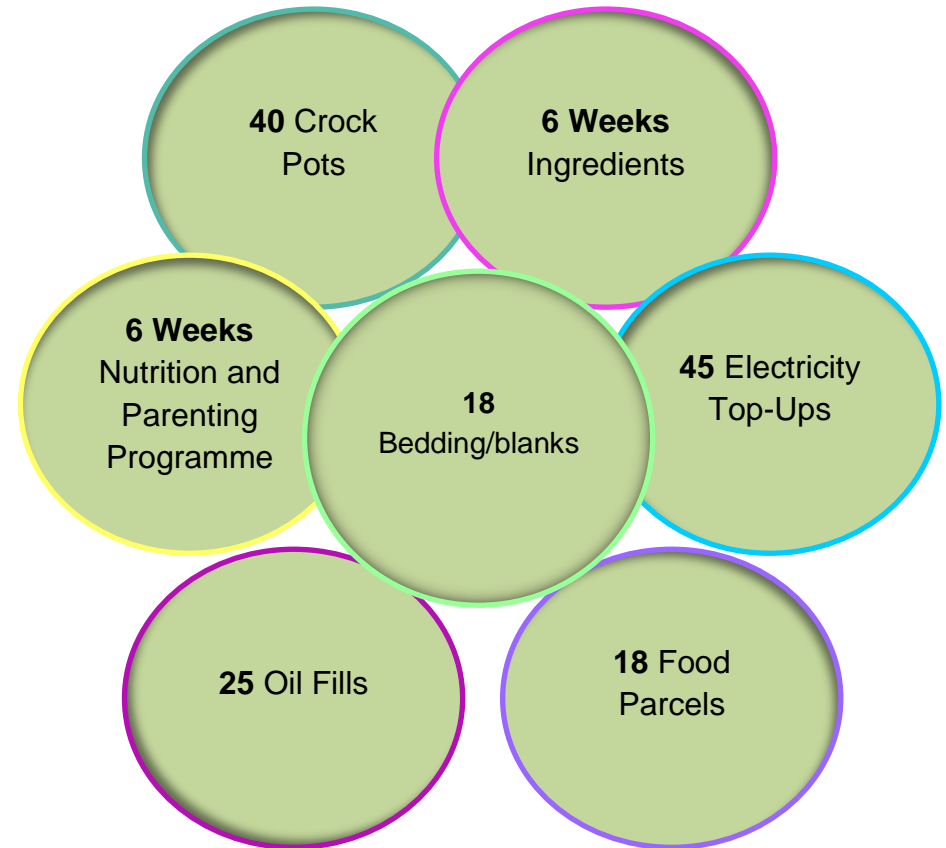
Derry LPG

Lead Organisation: Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum



Limavady LPG

Lead Organisation: Dry Arch Children's Centre
(Awaiting some further info)



How Well Did We Do It

Fermanagh LPG

Lead Organisation: Extern

79 Families received £200 Oil Fills

Omagh LPG

Lead Organisation: Omagh Women's Aid –for this support

79 Families
received
£200 Oil
Fills

1 family
received
£50 Gas
Top Up

46
supported
to access
additional
benefits

7 organisation
referred families
:Social Services,
Surestart, ERANO
Refugee Support
Service, Omagh
Women's Aid, Action
for Children,
Homestart Omagh,
Omagh Food Bank

Strabane LPG

Lead Organisation: Sure Start Strabane Barnardo's NI

132 families received vouchers for **£120 each**

Supported 155 parents and 248 children

Waterside LPG

Lead Organisation: Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership

**Delivered in
Partnership
with RAPID**

165 Families
Supported in
Faughan
DEA

269 Families
Supported in
Waterside
DEA

Referrals from
Trust Staff,
Elected Reps,
and Community
Orgs

Is Anyone Better Off

Feedback from Families and Organisations

They were all extremely grateful for the support at the time and stated that it was helpful in tackling their financial difficulties that week, however they did indicate that they were concerned about the increasing cost of food and fuel and were making difficult choices in relation to eating or heating

Families also reported that they are now more aware of support services available to them in the Waterside and Faughan DEA's.

Administering this funding has also allowed Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership and RAPID to work with agencies across the community and statutory sector to begin discussions around designing programmes for parents looking at budgeting programmes, heating your home more efficiently

This grant for practical support for Families has enabled a more cohesive, holistic approach to providing Family Support, supports to Children and Young People's, and strengthening Family Functioning as well as reducing the impact of mental health and supporting emotional wellbeing

Many Families have struggled in terms of deciding to heat or eat as well as electricity meters screaming. This has a huge impact on Children as well as Parents. Many Young People of spoken to our Mentors of the sound of the electricity meter haunting them in their sleep as it makes them feel "poor". The stigma of this has caused an increase in school refusals and an increase to the FSH for support

My life has been turned upside down 6 months ago when my sister died of covid. I've taken on one of her daughters which is lovely, but I worry how to give her the best life possible. Everything around us is costing more, I feel as if the electric is constantly buzzing and running out of gas seems to be every other day. Getting help means I can stop worrying knowing my wains have heat and electricity for a while. Getting help from the community is very much appreciated

Is Anyone Better Off

Feedback from Families and Organisations

I recently lost my wife and job; I found it extremely hard to cope with my four boys on my own and couldn't keep on top of bills and groceries. The school contacted Ethos and within an hour they arrived at my door with food and a voucher. I couldn't thank them enough for the help.

The 80 pounds fuel voucher provided by ethos helped me out a lot with the current fuel crisis as my money just isn't stretching far enough to keep up with the constant increases and even more so now that am currently off on maternity leave

Using the collaborative, multi-agency approach ensured that a wrap-around range of support was available to families in addition to the provision of £200.00 oil delivery. This project added value to the existing support services being offered to families from the referring organisations meaning that the practical support provided was dealt with in a discreet and respectful manner.

Those receiving assistance stated how thankful they were, as it provided a vital lifeline in a time of extreme financial crisis

The project aimed to identify those families with children in the Omagh LPG area most at risk from fuel poverty and to provide them with one off support with heating costs by way of a £200.00 delivery of heating oil coupled with budgeting and energy efficiency information and support. This approach allowed families where possible, to budget and plan ahead via a weekly savings goal so that they would have some money set aside for the next fill of oil in 6 weeks to 2 months' time

One mum was in tears as she described running out of oil that morning, and had no means or hope of getting any, later that day getting the offer of a voucher 'was a gift from heaven'. She like the rest of the families nominated were so thankful for the support and the stress that it elevated.

Stark choices of heating or eating, heating against household bills, heating or being able to put fuel into their car (rural families), paying insurances and heating the home, were some of the daily dilemmas shared. These were eased for a short period by the oil