

Staffordshire Crisis & Resilience Fund

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Key Information

- DWP funding scheme for households, delivered through local councils.
- Not a direct replacement for the Household Support Fund ended on 31 March 2026.
- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

Purpose

- Help households **recover from financial shocks**
- Focused on **preventing repeat crisis** and stabilise not sustain long term income
- Decrease need for emergency financial support.
- Bolster local support systems with referral processes between community led & resilience services
- Expectation that a significant amount of funding is spent on Resilience and Community Services

What the CRF Is (and Is Not)

What the Fund Is

- Trauma-informed, Person-centred, Needs-led, Identify root causes
- Expectation that Resilience Services, Wraparound Support and ‘warm’ referrals are embedded
- Whole-family and whole-household assessment
- Understanding financial difficulty and root cause in the wider context of need
- Wraparound Support: Referral to resilience services **must** be considered with every application
- Resilience Services key to preventing repeat crisis

What the Fund Is Not

- Not a like-for-like replacement for HSF – **No Education Support Fund Vouchers**
- Not purely emergency cash payments
- Not short-term crisis intervention only
- Regular source of income via crisis payments

Crisis and Resilience Fund 4 Key Strands

1. Crisis Payments

Providing emergency financial support for people in crisis, for essential items such as food, fuel, uniform.

2. Housing Payments

Offering financial assistance to households experiencing a shortfall in their housing costs, helping prevent homelessness or housing instability.

3. Resilience Services

Funding services delivered by councils or external providers aimed at improving financial resilience, stability, and independence.

4. Community Coordination

Strengthening local communities by bringing together voluntary and community sector organisations to support individuals.

1. Crisis Payments – Oil Crisis Only until Cabinet Approval

- Fast - Target is 48 hrs from receipt of complete application (not requirement)
- Flexible – Award types, method and amount (not a one size fits all)
- Cash First not cash only –digital transfers (e-vouchers), not suitable for all
- Robust assessment, documentary evidence, due diligence, prevents fraud

Two Application Pathways

Professional Referral Existing Partners

- Application form shared with VCSE, Statutory partners
- Robust evidence gathering of need
- Appropriate e-voucher sent
- Oil Crisis Payments only until Cabinet Approval – 14 requests & 5 approved to date.

One to One Assessment

- Family Hub Well Being Coaches
- Assessment of need and eligibility
- Signposting to alternative support or professional referral
- 231 requests received to date – Not all eligible , high challenge and signpost to alternative support

Resilience Services

Address underlying causes of financial crisis

Includes

- 1:1 financial wellbeing and budgeting support
- Debt, benefits and entitlement advice
- Practical support to navigate systems and services
- Significantly greater investment in community-based support
- Local Authorities have discretion to determine how best to meet CRF outcomes using Resilience Services
- Expectation that we work collaboratively with partners to ensure resilience services are visible and connected
- Reporting on Outcomes – CRF approach will adapt over time to support development and impact
- Community Resilience Services

District Development of Resilience & Community Coordination Services



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- Engage with district councils, partners, VCSE providers and co-produce local delivery
- Objective –
 - Map of Local Sufficiency & Landscape of financial well being support
 - What's going well, Where are the gaps
 - Shape the resilience delivery, what would resilience look like
 - Resident survey
 - Identify community/grass roots organisations
- Design Grant Framework Standards in partnership
- Market Grant Application & Award process in Partnership
- Measuring Outcomes

Housing Payments



- **Providing financial support** to those entitled to a qualifying benefit to help with rent or moving costs, reducing the risk of homelessness and supporting housing transitions.



- **Adopting a phased approach to integration**, allowing authorities time to plan for a smooth delivery to enable ongoing assistance for vulnerable households.



- Closely replicating existing DHP guidelines, giving **certainty and stability** to both claimants and authorities.



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Message to Staff and Families

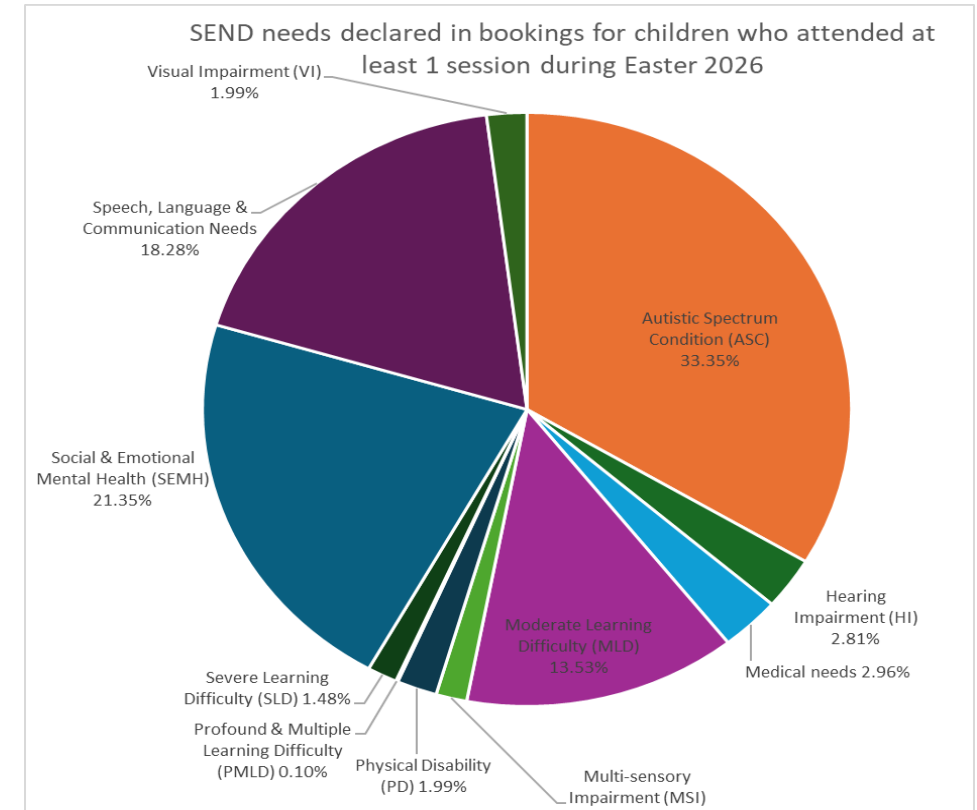
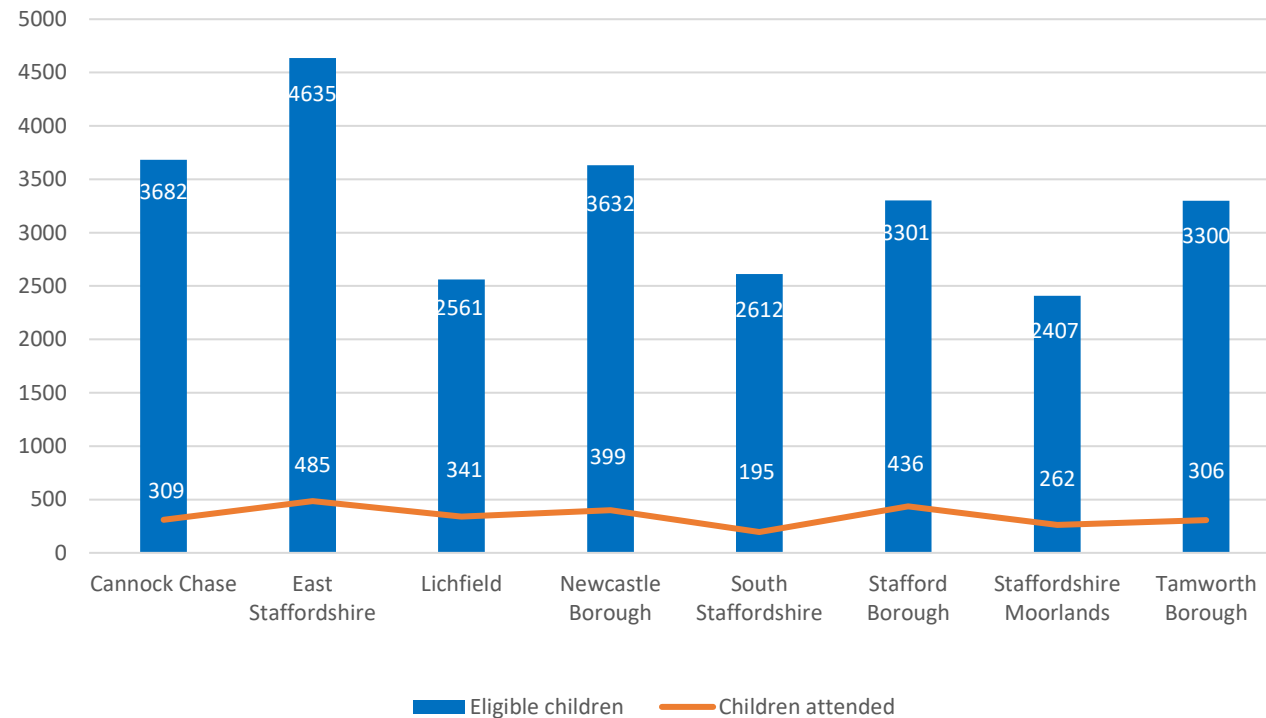
- No more Education Support Fund Vouchers. Families informed at Easter
- CRF not the same as HSF
- Crisis Payment – Professional referral only, robust evidence, engaging or engage with support first
- Crisis Payments – Anticipated professional referral applications open July, subject to cabinet approval
- School Holidays Support – Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) FSM Eligible or Professional Referral
- Resilience Services & Community Services in development with district partners

HAF Engagement



Department
for Education

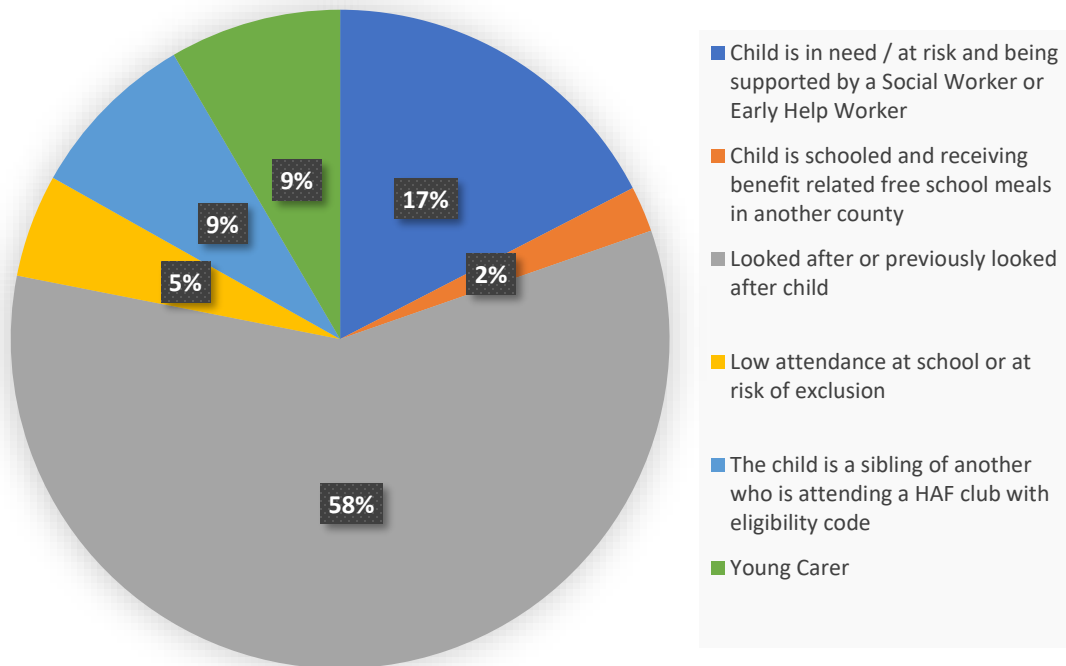
Attended FSM children by District - Easter 2026



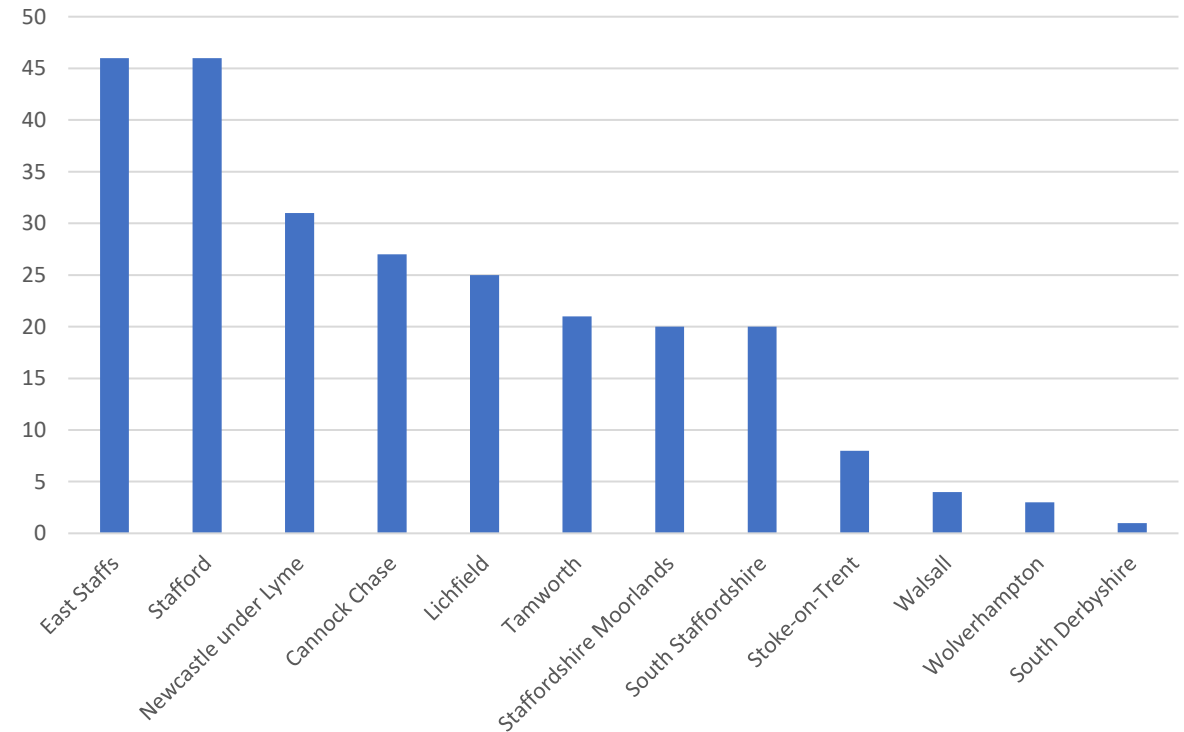


HAF – Professional Referrals

**Reason for Professional Referral - HAF
Easter 2026**



Area of schooling for children referred via PRF for Easter 2026



Useful Links

- [Find a family hub | Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Community support and safety | Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Crisis and Resilience Fund | Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Family support services | Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Holiday Activities and Food | Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Support for your finances | Staffordshire County Council](#)

Check local district and borough council websites



Department
for Work &
Pensions



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