

Appendix 3 – Impacts of the Project Breakdown Quarter 1-3 (April – December 2023)

Project number	Project name	Impact
1	Supermarket Vouchers.	<p>The full £380,000 has been spent (£350,000 in supermarket vouchers and £30,000 in administration fees).</p> <p>2,333 additional applications have been approved due to the additional funding received. Demand has increased each month for the £150 vouchers, with the window often closing within the same day it opens.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund Round 4 (which was the original vouchers) is currently due to close after March 2024. The scheme will have awarded a total of £1.8m or 12,000 by 31 March 2024 in partnership with Citizens Advice.</p>
2	Debt and CoL Advice	<p>Providing an extension for the 3 FTE specialist debt caseworkers, originally funded by COMF funding due to the significant increase in demand. Debt issues increased by 22% and requests for benefits & tax credits increased by 20%; Utilities and Communications support issues increased by 16% and foodbank and charitable support issues increased by 12% in the period August 2022-23. The specialist debt caseworkers commenced in Q2 and so far have had the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 298 Clients helped • 1,376 Issues supported • £259,358 in financial gains for clients
3	Invest in the Healthy Homes Dorset scheme.	<p>86 households benefitted</p> <p>77 households were low income</p> <p>69 households had a long term illness or disability</p> <p>80 properties were classed as Park Homes</p>
4	Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) allowance.	<p>This project was always going to be spent in Q4 due to the requirement that the team must fully spend the grant they receive from Government prior to spending any further funds. The impact of having this additional funding available, is that the DHP team have been able to make longer term financial decisions which will keep residents in their homes for longer. A full</p>

		report on the impact will be made available after Q4 as part of the wider analysis of the funding.												
5	Disabled Facilities Grant - Energy.	<p>End of Q3 31 December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 Grants either completed or awaiting completion. • Total spend allocated to these grants - up to end Q3 is £288,211 • 90% of budget now spent or allocated. • Applicants must meet the criteria for the funding – are disabled either by mental, physical, learning disability, sensory disability. • Applicants are located across Dorset <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Areas of work</th> <th>Number of Jobs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New heating system installed</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park home insulation installed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Replacement boiler/boiler repair</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roof insulation</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Areas of work	Number of Jobs	Doors and windows (replaced / repaired)	6	New heating system installed	4	Park home insulation installed	1	Replacement boiler/boiler repair	43	Roof insulation	4
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6	Food security.	Food projects funded support to over 4306 households per month. Funded food projects included 5 social supermarkets, 19 foodbanks and we were able to support a grant to the Friendly Food Club to offer 2 cooking courses in Littlemoor and the Park District to support health, wellbeing and budget outcomes along with train the trainer sessions for communities wanting to offer community cookery sessions.												

		<p>29% were to families with children; 23% disability (physical, mental health, learning disability, sensory); 12% pensioners; 36% other (inc. couples with none or no dependant age children, single people inc. temporary housing and HMO's).</p> <p>The largest numbers supported were in Weymouth, Portland, Sturminster Newton and Wareham</p>
7	Small energy efficiency adaptations.	<p>Volunteer Centre Dorset have delivered this project, distributing 1173 items so far.</p> <p>They have received 208 referrals to date which come from a range of professional sources including: social workers, social prescribers, The Lantern and Shelter, Housing Associations, Citizens Advice Energy Advice Unit, Millbrook Sight and Hearing Team etc.</p> <p>Items distributed include heated throws, oversized hoodies, hot water bottles, heated blankets, blankets, radiator foil, microwaves and air fryers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¾ of referrals are for people aged 40 and under • 47% of referrals are for adults living alone • 35% of referral are for households with children • 91% report they are struggling with utility bills and 35% are on a prepaid meter. <p>All referrals receive a benefit of some kind to boost their income, most have mental health needs, a long-term condition, physical disability and/or learning disability.</p>
8	Additional hours for early years children going to school in Sept 2023.	<p>This additional funding has enabled 134 children in the summer term, 152 children in the autumn term and 161 children so far this term, to access additional early education hours in their setting of choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact for families included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ support with the household with the cost-of-living situation. ○ ability to access additional paid work. ○ direct benefit to children's development from the additional hours noted below

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent feedback on the impact included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ Helped my child prepare for school. ○ It was a great way for our child to be social and access learning. ○ He went in a couple of extra sessions after I'd had an operation. He went somewhere where he was safe and settled and I knew he was somewhere that I could trust he was looked after, and his needs met. ○ Allowed the children to have more time in their peer group. ○ It gave our child three full days at pre-school which she enjoyed and needed. ○ Helped with speech and socialisation. ○ More settled at nursery and better prepared for school. • Provider feedback on the impact included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was so valuable as I know without the extra sessions and a gap between leaving my setting and starting school, would have resulted in steps backwards for this child. ○ I know the parents were very grateful for the extra funding, and they have asked me to pass on their thanks. ○ The extra boost hours were really useful for some of our families as it enabled them to take on a few additional hours work. ○ The additional hours were beneficial for this child's development in preparation for school. ○ This helped mum as she has mental health issues. ○ This was a great way to support one of my children to become school ready in the final term of nursery. ○ Benefitted from personal, social, and emotional development by attending the setting more regularly as he was also needing regular focussed activities to support this area due to his special educational needs.
9	Off Grid energy discretionary support vouchers (Oil & Calor Gas).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 169 off-grid £150 grants issued by Citizen's Advice. Including 37 households with children; 88 households with a disability; 42 with a state pension age person; 12 Gypsy Roma Traveller and 23 park home residents

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations include Bridport 15; Dorchester 40; East Dorset & Purbeck 47; North Dorset 26; Sherborne 18; Weymouth & Portland 23
<p>10</p>	<p>School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.</p>	<p>School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.</p> <p>Working alongside HomeStart to deliver the Big Hopes Big Futures to a target audience of parents and children who started school in September 2023.</p> <p>75 children engaged with the HomeStart 2023 School Readiness programme. Families told us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they were less anxious sending their children to school • the sessions helped parents overcome common fears • there was an improvement in toilet trained children starting school • they felt more confident in supporting her child with school ready activities over the summer. <p>The 'Ready to Thrive' project also included funding school uniform and other opportunities to increase children's preparation for the transition into school. This supported parents who struggled to pay for school uniform because of the cost-of-living increases.</p> <p>We know that our girls in school are not achieving as well as boys in maths. To support the work of the Dorset Education Board and help our girls to be 'ready to thrive' we funded a Maths programme for early years settings. This is being rolled out from January 2024 and we will be able to provide evidence of impact at the end of the EYFS year for those children.</p> <p>In Chesil there was collaboration between our Activity & Parenting Workers and Home-Start Facilitator, along with dedicated volunteers, which significantly contributed to the success of the program. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting and celebrating the development and strengthening of parent-child relationships in preparing children for school. • offering children with play activities aligned with key school readiness areas.

		<p>Weekly focus groups for families discussing the significance of each area and discovering alternative ways to explore these topics at home</p> <p>We will expand on this work this year in preparation for school starters in September 2024 and include partners in the Library Service, Health, and Education providers.</p>
11	Homelessness prevention	<p>As the cost of living continues to affect residents, our homelessness teams are seeing significant increase in residents not being able to afford private rents/mortgages and therefore at risk of losing their homes and falling to our homelessness teams to rehouse them. Many of these are in the private rented and homeowners fall outside if the Discretionary Housing Allowance criteria so cannot be supported under this programme.</p> <p>The funding agreed last year helped 179 households avoid homelessness.</p>