

Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme (EEP)

Vulnerable child or young person in crisis

All children and young people (CYP) should be safe, happy and secure, and have the opportunity to reach their potential.

Many children and young people are facing exceptional, difficult circumstances or crises; are living in severe poverty and suffering deprivation as a result and who have additional stressors such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, estrangement, disability or serious illness, mental health or behavioural difficulties, abuse or neglect.

Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme provides grants for items that meet children and young peoples' most basic needs or items and services that are critical to their wellbeing.

There is no entitlement to an award. All grants are discretionary and subject to the applicant meeting eligibility criteria and available funding at any time.

Vulnerabilities creating exceptional difficulty or crisis

By exceptional difficulties or crisis we mean an unexpected occurrence outside of the child or young person's control. The following are not exhaustive, but are to give examples of the events and circumstances that could be considered:

- **Domestic abuse**
Where the child or young person are living with, or fleeing from, domestic abuse, or where a young person has fled an abusive household or situation
- **Alcohol or Substance misuse**

A child or young person is abusing substances or they are affected by a family member in the household who is abusing substances.

- **Estrangement or abandonment**

Where a young person is living independently without parental support and their relationship with family or carer has broken down irrevocably

- **Disability, serious or chronic illness**

Where a child or young person has a disability, serious or chronic illness, or a family member in the household has a disability, serious or chronic illness

- **Mental health or behavioural difficulties**

Where a child, young person has mental health or behavioural difficulties, or a family member in the household has mental health or behavioural difficulties.

- **Young carer**

A child or young person within the household is a Young Carer for a parent, carer or disabled sibling.

- **Abuse or neglect**

Child or young person is living with or has experienced abuse or neglect

- **Orphaned or death of main carer**

Child or young person has been orphaned; or their main carer, including kinship carers has died

- **Care Leavers**

Who are not eligible for support through The Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000

- **Family member of household is in prison**

A parent, carer or sibling within household is currently in prison or on remand

- **Young person at risk of institutional care**

Due to offending behaviour or actions, has permanent exclusion from education setting

- **Homelessness/ unsettled way of life**

Child or young person who is experiencing an unsettled way of life, such as 'sofa surfing' rough sleeping, using temporary accommodation e.g. bed and breakfast or hostel accommodation, shelters or similar

- **Trafficking or exploitation/ gang involvement**

Child or young person has experienced or is at risk of trafficking, grooming, gang involvement or similar

- **Protected characteristics**

Child or young person are identified as coming within any of the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010

Vulnerabilities created following an unexpected occurrence

An *unexpected* occurrence outside of the child or young person's control, such as:

- having to move out of the family home following a fire or flood
- loss or breakdown of an essential item; prevention of incurring unmanageable debt
- eviction
- fleeing domestic abuse
- receiving an offer of an adapted property or social housing and the property that must be accepted within a short timescale
- unplanned hospital inpatient stay (or 3 or more days) where a child, young person or a member of the household has undergone an unexpected medical crisis
- relocation out of area; e.g. removal of child or young person from gang influence, bullying in neighbourhood