



LGA Reshaping Financial Support: Programme Overview

Gareth Evans: Financial Inclusion Centre

LGA Reshaping Financial Support:

Overview: Work collaboratively with local authorities to build on existing good practice and accelerate further development, coordination and innovation in the support delivered to improve the financial circumstances of low income households.

- RFS Core Programme
- RFS Covid Response
- RFS Where Next?

RFS: Core Programme

- Funding support from Barrow Cadbury and London Councils.
- RFS commenced in November 2019 providing 18 months support & peer-learning.

4x 'Core' Councils:

Barking & Dagenham



ROYAL borough of GREENWICH



3x 'Associate' Councils

Newcastle
City Council



- Action Learning workshops
- Programme consultancy
- Project/pilot funding
- Action Learning workshops

RFS: Covid Response

1. Programme modified in April 2020 - supporting councils with the immediate provision of help to households at risk of financial hardship.
2. Network expanded to 25 – 30 councils - monthly RFS meeting responding to key Covid issues/topics.
3. Sector-wide webinars (financial hardship / affordable finance / local welfare)
4. Lobbying and policy work with key stakeholders
5. Good Practice Guide: Delivering Financial Hardship Support Schemes
6. Financial Hardship Demand Dashboard

RFS: Where Next?

Moving towards planning for longer-term recovery:

1. Regular telekits and webinars will continue.
2. Two further good practice/case study publications:
 - The role of councils in improving access to affordable credit and financial services
 - Best practice in local government debt recovery
3. Production of RFS programme summary and evaluation – informing proposals for continued sector-led improvement in 2021/22.
4. RFS Programme 2.0 – Summer 2021

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