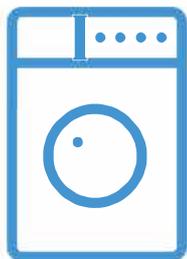


FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Financial assistance schemes exist to provide one-off support for those who are in receipt of benefits and who need to fund an emergency. Local authorities are given a finite amount of money each year for these schemes and it is important that the money is allocated correctly, otherwise those in desperate need cannot be helped. These schemes can be victim to fraud and it's important that there are robust controls in place to prevent this. Financial assistance can be provided for things such as:



Replacement white goods if one is broken and the owner has no means to replace it



Home starter pack for someone who is awarded a property after being homeless



Cash card for vital supplies when someone's benefits have been withheld



Travel expenses for attending the funeral of a close relative where the person has no funds

How does fraud occur?

Applying for appliances and selling them on, unused, for cash (or gifting them to someone)

Applying under a false name or an address

False applications for a cash card or one-off payments when the applicant has funds

In 2016 a woman from York pleaded guilty to fraud after an investigation found that she abused the financial assistance scheme. She applied for a cooker, washing machine and fridge freezer and was awarded these under the scheme. However before the goods were delivered to her, she advertised them for sale on Facebook and received £200. She failed to notify the council that she no longer needed the goods, and was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay compensation of £400 and court costs of £250. [Click here to read more](#)



If you think you know someone who has applied falsely from this scheme please let us know. The council will only take action where necessary and where an offence has been committed.

Veritau works on behalf of several local authorities in North Yorkshire and acts as their counter fraud provider. Please report all fraud to:

0800 9179 247
Confidential fraud hotline

