



Orkney  
Community  
Planning  
Partnership

# Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund

2025/26

*“This funding is a lifeline for many households in Orkney. By working with local organisations, we can ensure that support is targeted and reaches those who need it most, whether through food provision, energy assistance, or community-led projects.”*

Stephen Brown, Chair of the Cost of Living Task Force



*“The strength of this response lies in collaboration. These projects reflect the creativity and commitment of our community partners to tackle poverty and support resilience. Every pound will make a tangible difference to families and individuals across Orkney.”*

Councillor Heather Woodbridge, Chair of the Orkney Community Planning Partnership

## Introduction

The Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund is a Scottish Government initiative supports island communities facing the cost-of-living crisis.

The funding provides immediate support to households most affected, with a strong focus on tackling child poverty and supporting vulnerable groups.

The Island Cost Crisis Emergency Fund is allocated directly to the six island local authorities to support the needs of their communities. In Orkney, the fund is disbursed through the Cost-of-Living Task Force.

In the summer, the Cost-of-Living Task Force – formed through the Orkney Community Planning Partnership - invited proposals from local organisations, resulting in a diverse range of projects designed to make a real difference in communities. These projects will be delivered across Orkney through the coming months and into 2026.

This report summaries the projects that will be supported by the fund for 2025/26.

## 2025–26 awards in Orkney

£214,000 allocated across twenty projects:

- 1. Hoy & Walls Community FoodHub expansion (one-year trial) — *Island of Hoy Development Trust* — £3,500**  
Expands the FoodHub for 12 months, including an additional FareShare pallet every fortnight and related island haulage and handling.
- 2. Building confidence within Families — *Home-Start Orkney* — £8,860**  
Tailored support to families facing hardship, reducing the impact of poverty and building resilience to help children thrive.
- 3. FareShare Orkney — Operational Costs — *Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE)* — £1,500**  
Covers local transport costs so Orkney charities can continue to benefit from FareShare's surplus food redistribution.
- 4. Youth Voice Fund — *Orkney Youth Forum* — £3,000**  
A youth-led micro-grants pot enabling young people to design and run small projects tackling cost-of-living and food insecurity.
- 5. Holiday Provision of Free School Meals — *Orkney Islands Council* — £25,000**  
Payments to families of children entitled to free school meals to cover lunches during school holidays.
- 6. Café Cubbie and Cooking — *Orkney Youth Café* — £6,000**  
Provides free meals for young people each session, with enough leftovers for those who need to take food home for themselves and their families.
- 7. Flotta Day Club — *Flotta Day Club* — £2,000**  
A monthly warm, learning and activity hub for older residents on Flotta.
- 8. Participation Fund — School — *OIC Education (Schools)* — £30,000**  
Continues the school participation fund supporting families so children can take part in activities in and out of school.
- 9. Provision of additional support for parents and children — *Orkney Foodbank* — £15,000**  
Extra support for clients (especially low-income and single-parent families; families with additional needs) with a focus on those experiencing or at risk of child poverty.
- 10. Better options, better health, stronger families — *Women's Aid Orkney* — £10,000**  
Voucher packs for women and families impacted by domestic abuse.

**11. Blide Young People Group Activities — Orkney Blide Trust — £4,500**

Weekly therapeutic social activity for care-experienced and other young people facing mental-health challenges; participants plan and cook a shared meal and develop life skills.

**12. Make & Mend — Stronsay Development Trust — £3,000**

Fortnightly sewing, mending, quilting and upcycling sessions, with PAT testing/small repairs and monthly Warm Hub open days.

**13. Community Card — Age Scotland Orkney — £15,000**

Helps older people buy food from local shops using the Kirkwall BID Card— supporting nutrition, including where grandparents provide childcare.

**14. Stromness Friday Afternoon Youth Drop-In (Stromness Community Centre) —**

*OIC Youth Services, CLDE — £1,600*

Free healthy snacks during free Friday drop-in activities, delivered with Action for Children and Stromness Community Centre.

**15. Orkney Money Matters — debt support fund — THAW Orkney (admin), Orkney**

*Foodbank & Orkney CAB — £16,500*

Continues cash-first vouchers and capital funds to support financially insecure households.

**16. THAW Flexible Fund (energy vouchers) — THAW Orkney — £25,000**

Energy vouchers and debt relief for households in fuel poverty to manage energy crises over the winter.

**17. Right There Support — Cost of Living Crisis in Orkney — Right There — £10,000**

£20 energy-crisis grants for young people in supported accommodation; weekly shared hot meals to reduce isolation and improve diet/budgeting; food parcels/vouchers.

**18. Youth Hub Item Bank — Hoy Youth Hub — £8,000**

Funding supports a stock of toiletries, snacks and personal-care items that children and families can access when needed.

**19. Christmas Grants — “Every Child Deserves a Christmas” — Orkney Charitable Trust — £22,500**

Targeted cash-first support in December: £60 per child (professionally referred and verified) to alleviate winter and festive poverty.

**20. Healthy food and snacks for the Friday Youth Hub @ Pickaquoy — The Pickaquoy Centre Trust — £3,040**

Free snack from Picky Café for young people taking part in free Friday activities; voucher collected on the day.