Report Title	Pendle Resilience Services for Residents
Meeting	Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee
Meeting Date	2nd December 2026
Report Author	Leanne Stillings
Directorate	Chief Executive
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr Dorothy Lord
Wards Affected	Barrowford, Pendleside, Fence and Higham.
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix A - Pendle Resilience Services Booklet

1. Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an overview of the resilience support available to residents across Pendle. These services are designed to assist individuals and families facing financial hardship, unemployment, digital exclusion, social isolation, housing difficulties, and wider wellbeing challenges.

Support is available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) programme, the online Community Support Hub, Family Hubs, Library Resilience Hubs, and a wide range of services delivered by local partner organisations. Members are encouraged to promote awareness of these services within their communities and help residents access the support available, particularly during the winter months when financial pressures and cost-of-living challenges can become more acute.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the Area Committee is recommended to:

- Note the range of local resilience support available to residents across Pendle, and encourage Members to promote these services within their communities.

3. Background

3.1 The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) Programme is Pendle Council's primary local resilience support scheme, providing practical assistance to residents experiencing financial hardship or facing an immediate crisis. The programme offers a combination of emergency financial support, advice, and targeted interventions to help households meet essential needs, maintain independence, and improve their long-term resilience. The programme operates from April 2026 to March 2029 and is delivered through Pendle Borough Council in partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations across the borough.

3.2 Working alongside local partners and community organisations, the CRF Programme supports residents with issues such as food insecurity, fuel poverty, housing costs, household essentials, debt, low income, and wider wellbeing concerns. In addition to crisis support, the programme seeks to address the underlying causes of hardship by connecting residents to employment support, benefits advice, digital inclusion initiatives, health and wellbeing services, and community-based support networks. By combining immediate assistance with preventative support, the programme aims to reduce poverty, strengthen community resilience, and help residents achieve greater financial stability.

3.3 To complement Pendle's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) Programme, Pendle Borough Council has worked closely with a wide range of local partners delivering resilience-related services to strengthen coordination, improve referral pathways, and expand the support available to residents. This collaborative approach helps ensure that individuals and families can access timely, joined-up support that addresses both immediate needs and the underlying causes of hardship.

Support Available to Residents

3.4 Details of the support funded through Pendle's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) Programme are provided in Appendix A. The appendix sets out the resilience services available across each of Pendle's towns, alongside borough-wide services that are accessible to all residents

3.5 Alongside the CRF-funded resilience centres outlined in Appendix 1, a wide range of partner organisations deliver complementary resilience services across

Pendle. Together, these services provide a comprehensive network of support for residents facing financial, social, and wellbeing challenges. Support available to Pendle households includes:

- Financial advice, budgeting support and debt management
- Emergency food and essential household provision
- Affordable food
- Free meals
- Welfare benefits advice and income maximisation
- Employment, skills and training support
- Digital inclusion and access to technology
- Housing advice, homelessness prevention and tenancy support
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing support
- Family and parenting support
- Social prescribing and community-based activities
- Support to reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Energy advice and assistance with fuel poverty
- Access to volunteering opportunities and community networks

3.6 The Crisis Payment Scheme, delivered on behalf of Pendle Borough Council by Citizens Advice East Lancashire, provides emergency financial assistance to residents on low incomes who are experiencing a sudden financial crisis. This may include circumstances such as a loss of income, relationship breakdown, ill health, bereavement, or other unforeseen events that place significant financial pressure on a household. The scheme aims to help residents meet immediate essential needs while also providing advice and support to improve their longer-term financial resilience and wellbeing.

3.7 Details of the Crisis and Resilience Fund programme, along with the wider resilience offer can be found at Pendle's Community Support Hub:

https://www.pendle.gov.uk/CommunitySupportHub

4. Role of Councillors

Members of the Area Committee are requested to:

- Promote local resilience services within their wards

- Share information through local networks and communication channels
- Signpost residents to the Community Support Hub and relevant local organisations
- Raise awareness through community engagement activities

5. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth, Housing and Healthy Communities and Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation)

- **Proud and Connected Communities and Places:** Connecting residents with local services, activities and volunteering opportunities helps reduce isolation and strengthen community networks.
- **Housing and Healthy Communities:** Support with financial hardship, food and fuel poverty, housing and wellbeing helps residents meet essential needs, maintain stable homes and build resilience.

6. Implications

6.1 Financial Implications

No direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Legal and Governance Implications

No direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

No direct climate implications arising from this report.

6.4 Human Resources Implications

No direct HR implications arising from this report.

6.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

No direct equality implications arising from this report.

7. Consultation

7.1 Information contained within this report has been drawn from the Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund programme and associated resilience support services available across Pendle.

8. Alternative Options Considered

N/A

9. Background Documents

Appendix A Pendle Resilience Services booklet

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