

Solihull 'Warm Welcome Hubs' Fund

Introduction

In response to the increased cost of living, this grant scheme is designed to support clubs, charities, organisations or groups based in Solihull in setting up or maintaining 'Warm Welcome Hubs' in the borough.

Fund Aims

Although we welcome innovation and flexibility in the Warm Welcome Hub model, there are some standards which are important to attain.

Hubs should aim to provide a warm space to vulnerable people who may be at risk of fuel poverty, food poverty or may be feeling lonely or isolated over the winter period. The regular sessions must be easily accessible and open to the local community, and therefore could be set up in any safe, warm, and welcoming community facility.

Each Hub must include the following as part of their offer:

1. Food and hot drinks

It can be as simple as a piece of cake or light refreshments, or it might be a hot snack or cooked meal. Basic refreshments should be free to access and we anticipate projects to also work in partnership with local schools, shops and supermarkets for donations and reduced supplies.

2. Activity

Having an activity within the Hub will encourage people to attend. You can consider Wi-Fi, board games, arts and crafts or activities which encourage physical or social interaction. Some Hubs may have more of a specific focus such as on healthy cooking, exercise classes or activities for families and children.

3. Transport

Please demonstrate how you have considered people travelling to the Hub. This is particularly essential for Hubs in rural locations or who are targeted at those with reduced mobility.

4. Advice, Information and guidance

The Hub should provide users with additional information which can include energy efficiency, home safety, money matters etc. This can be delivered by partner VCSE organisations or statutory services.

There will be opportunities to network, share ideas and learning. Hubs may be asked to become food parcel collection points during opening hours for local residents to access emergency food supplies. Hubs will be promoted on the SMBC website for people to find out where they can access the support.

All hub activities must be delivered by 1 March 2024 and your final monitoring report must be returned by 25 March 2024.

Available Funding

Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

We realise that sometimes being referred to as a “Warm Hub” may provide a barrier for some people to access. Therefore, you can use any suitable name to promote your hub. There is no requirement to refer to it as a “Welcome Warm Hub”.

Priority Area

Grants are only available for Hubs which will be located and benefiting households in Solihull.

Organisations applying from outside of the area must demonstrate a connection within the borough.

We Will Fund

Please provide a breakdown of costs associated with setting up and/or maintaining a Warm Welcome Hub, such as;

- Venue hire,
- Utility bills,
- Refreshments and consumables
- Equipment and materials
- Promotion and marketing
- Costs associated with transport
- Volunteer expenses
- Staff costs associated to the delivery of the Hub

Eligibility

You can apply if you meet the following criteria :

- Registered charity
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and
- registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises

Additionally, your organisation income level must be equal to or less than £1m, as shown in your most recent annual accounts. Reserves must be in line with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Please note, we are unable to fund the following:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Capital Builds

- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- National Charities
- Organisations or charities which are set up solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals
- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fund-raising events.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months
- Food Hygiene training/certificates if applicable
- Risk assessments for venues and activities
- Copies of your safeguarding/policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- Equal opportunities policy
- Quotes for capital items over £300