

# Solihull 'Winter Support and Prevention' Fund

## Introduction

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council would like to invite community groups and organisations to support the local delivery of this winter's Household Support Fund which is funded through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The aspiration is to provide help and support to households, which can prevent and reduce crises during this period, as well as provide access to longer-term preventative help.

## Fund Aims

Successful projects must meet one of the following priorities:

1. Promote social wellbeing, by reducing social isolation and loneliness
2. Support access to healthy and affordable food and meals
3. Promote good mental health and wellbeing, particularly where it is linked to financial crises
4. Promote digital inclusion, and reduce the barriers for people getting online

### **1. Social wellbeing**

Loneliness is the feeling of being alone and is tackled by increasing an individual's social connectedness, improving their wellbeing or changing their perspective. Social Isolation is a lack of social connections or being physically separated from others, high-quality social connections are essential to our mental and physical health and our well-being.

Projects which address this priority can include providing opportunities to bring people experiencing social isolation together, building local connections through frequent and engaging contact, encouraging community cohesion, establishing a warm accessible space within communities most in need, and boosting resilience and quality of relationships. In a preventative effort, proposals will need to consider what matters to people.

### **2. Food**

Being able to afford and access enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life should be possible for everyone. Food insecurity means that people may eat less, skip meals or choose cheaper, unhealthy options because they cannot afford or access food.

Projects should seek to address these issues with the communities that you support. Examples, of support may include setting up of a 'social supermarket' to strengthen local food systems, information, advice and direct support to meal plan and cook on a budget, or community gardens which grow fruit and vegetables.

### **3. Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Mental health and wellbeing can be impacted by poverty. Low-income families and households are more likely to miss out on physical activities, arts and cultural activities, days out, special occasions, school trips and social activities.

Proposals will be welcomed from organisations which are looking to support people of all ages who may be experiencing significant financial pressures and crises. The aim will be to promote

resilience, improve the emotional and social aspects of people's lives which, as a result will improve access to other services.

#### **4. Digital Inclusion**

Digital exclusion creates a barrier for people to access a wide range of services. Projects will need to help provide opportunities for and incentivise people to get online, consider barriers to access like devices, affordable and accessible internet/data, digital literacy education and skills, technical support and developing confidence and internet safety.

**Closing date for applications is 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**All projects must be delivered by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and your final monitoring report must be returned by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

#### **Available Funding**

Grants of up to £4,000 are available.

#### **Priority Area**

Grants are only available for projects 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 delivering the activities, such as;

- Venue hire
- Staff costs associated to the project
- Materials and small items of equipment
- Costs of food (if part of project delivery)
- Promotion and marketing
- Volunteer expenses
- Transport costs etc.

#### **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