

# Levelling Up Grant Proposal 2023/24

Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service  
Transformation Committee - Workshop

4<sup>th</sup> October 2023



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**Swansea** Council

# Context

## Bevan Foundation: Snapshot of Poverty in Summer 2023

- More than one in seven households in Wales (15%) sometimes, often or always struggle to afford essential items.
- Large numbers of people are going without essentials including more than one in four (26%) eating smaller meals or skipping meals in their entirety.
- Debt is a significant problem with 29% of people borrowing money between April 2023 and July 2023 and 13% being in arrears on at least one bill for at least one month.
- The cumulative effect of the cost-of-living crisis can make life even more difficult for people. More than four in ten people who have cut down on the size of meals or skipped meals entirely have borrowed money from friends and family (45%) or on a credit card (42%) since April 2023.
- People's health is being negatively affected by their financial position. 45% of people report this in respect of their mental health and 28% report this in respect of their physical health.

<https://www.bevanfoundation.org/resources/snapshot-of-poverty-summer-2023/>



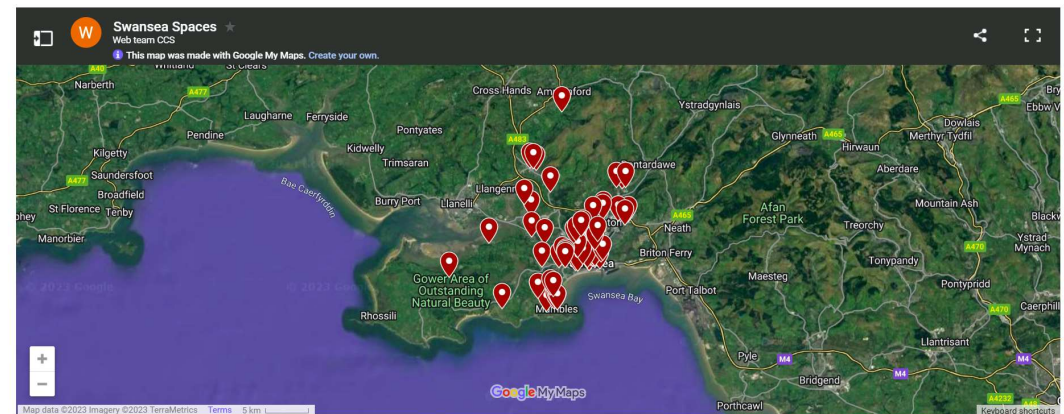
# Swansea Spaces (Warm Hubs)

<b>Description</b>	Welsh Government funding for organisations to provide warm hub provision in response to the cost-of-living crisis
<b>Grant Value</b>	£83,831
<b>Grants Awarded</b>	70 successful applications
<b>Grant Spend</b>	Enrichment Activities / Resources, Travel Costs, Refreshments and Food. Kitchen Equipment, Volunteer Expenses, Charging Equipment, Overhead Contributions, Internet Access, Furniture



Over 90 Swansea Spaces established winter 22/23

Map of Swansea Spaces



<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseaspaces>

# COAST (Creating Opportunities Across Swansea Together)

<b>Description</b>	UK Shared Prosperity funding for organisations to provide fun, enjoyable activities aimed at improving wellbeing for children, young people and families and 50+.
<b>Grant Value</b>	£581,765.76
<b>Grants Awarded</b>	140 successful applications
<b>Grant Spend</b>	Range of sport and health, cultural, environmental, ICT and social activities across the Summer for children, young people and families and 50+.

Est 20,000 children, young people, families and over 50s took part in activities

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/23502/COAST-Creating-Opportunities-Across-Swansea-Together-events>



**COAST - Children and young people**

Activities available between 15 July and 30 September 2023 for children, young people and families who reside or who are supported in Swansea.



**COAST - 50+**

Activities available between 15 July and 30 September 2023 for those aged 50+ who reside or who are supported in Swansea.

# Holiday Food Fund (Summer 2023)

<b>Description</b>	Levelling Up funding for organisations to provide food provision in response to the WG withdrawal of FSM holiday payments
<b>Grant Value</b>	£140,080.27
<b>Grants Awarded</b>	43 successful applications
<b>Grant Spend</b>	Food parcels, meals, food vouchers

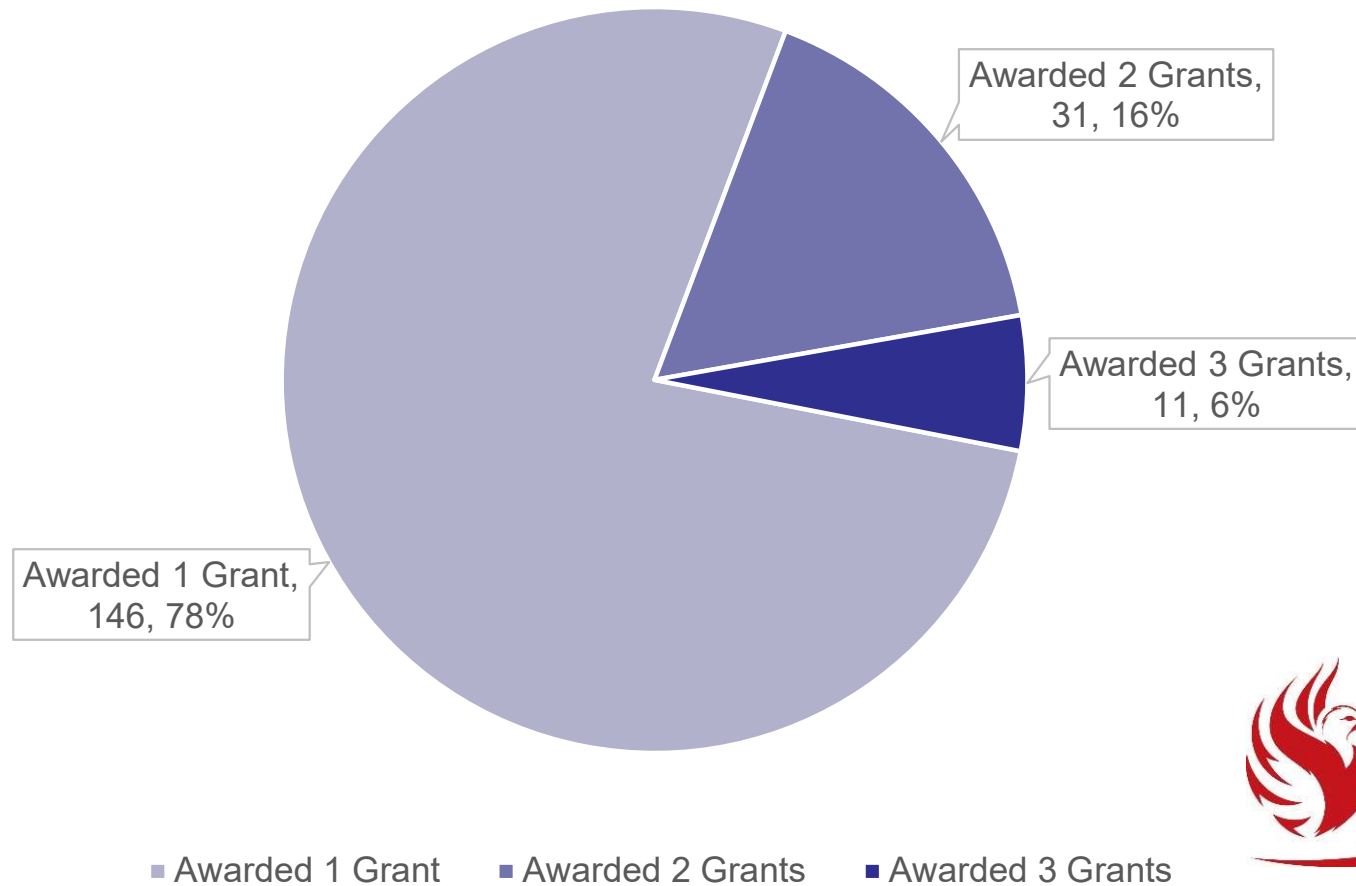


Over 65,000 estimated meals provided

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/Summerfoodupdate>

# Combined Overview

- £805,677.03 of funding supporting communities
- 253 grant applications approved
- 188 unique grant recipients



# Difference Made

## Holiday Food Fund (Summer 2023)

*“Without exception every family who received vouchers expressed their heartfelt thanks. In the week before we received the grant, several parents had come in tears saying that they didn’t have money to buy food to feed their children without free school meals that they usually received.*

*We distributed the vouchers in two payments so one payment was for one week, the second was for three weeks. One asylum seeker mother told us that they went to Tesco to buy food. Her daughter said that it was the only time that they had every been able to use a big trolley for their food shop. For most of us, it wouldn’t be unusual but for one child it was unusual and a great delight. In addition, she told us, they were able to buy a treat—pizza for the family’s dinner.” – Swansea Asylum Seekers Support*

## Swansea Spaces (Warm Hubs)

*“Made a massive impact in our community, a lot of people in our village that were too scared to come out after covid, many had not left their houses since. As weeks went by and word of mouth got out, seen more of them coming to the village hall, for some the difference has been immense.” – Felindre Welfare Hall*



# Difference Made

## COAST (Creating Opportunities Across Swansea Together)

*“Without the COAST funding we would not have been able to deliver the activities across the summer holidays and I know many of the young people and families that attended would not have been able to participate in other activities due to accessibility or other issues”.*

*“Fantastic class, giving children an opportunity to experience new skills and make friends. Would love Swansea CC to put more of these events on.”*

*“The COAST funding has allowed The Friends of Ravenhill Park to introduce activities that would not be available to local children, it has been a massive help and a great addition to the park. We are finding that the children and their parents are visiting an activity and then spending time in the park, the outdoors and doing what children used to do ‘play’.”*

*“Many parents don’t speak the Welsh language at home, so this activity funded by Coast is seen as not only keeping the children fit and active and introducing new friendships; but also helping them with their language during the school holidays so when they returned to school in September it wasn’t so much of a shock.”*

[COAST Presentation Short.mp4](#)



# Lessons Learned

- Clear evidence of need
- Strong Third Sector and partnership working
- Combining food and activities reduces stigma and social isolation
- Provision in communities increased reach of food poverty scheme
- Collaboration and sharing resources adds value and improved outcomes
- 31 organisations applied for more than one grant
- Very little support in holidays without schemes
- Joined up approach across council departments delivered efficient, effective programmes.

# Proposal Summary

- Develop one brand and grant scheme 'Levelling Up Across Communities in Swansea' that provides three distinct elements (Swansea Spaces, COAST and Holiday Food).
- This brand would provide 1 portal for applicants to apply for grant funding for the provision of Swansea Spaces, things to do and food for school aged children throughout the Winter over holidays and weekends.
- Feedback and evaluation from participants and projects have highlighted the need and impact of each element.
- This approach would reduce administration for both council officers and providers.
- Suggested budget £430,000

# Delivery

- Build on existing use of the councils web-based systems to receive and collate applications by hosting it on council webpage.
- Use all networks to promote opportunities.
- Reduce chance of duplication of requests for funding and work effort by bringing together grant schemes
- Reduce administration for both council and partners.
- Tackling Poverty and Commissioning teams working together it increases the networks this will be communicated to and increases the team to manage the process including evaluating and monitoring.
- This approach would improve spend efficiency

# Questions?

- Any queries?
- Is this the right approach?
- Are there any amendments/suggestions you would like to make?