



Tackling Poverty Service

Tackling Poverty Grants 2022/23

Impact Report

Owner	Lee Cambule
Author	Anthony Richards
Version	V0.2
Date	13 June 2023

Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	3
2. Context.....	4
3. Grants 2022/23 Overview	5
4. Household Support Grant.....	7
5. Direct Food Support Grant	13
6. Sustainable Food Partnerships Grant.....	21
7. Period Dignity Grant.....	22
8. Warm Hubs Grant – Swansea Spaces.....	29
9. Men’s Sheds Grant	38
10. Cost of Living – Discretionary Fuel Payments Grant.....	40
11. Summary	41

1. Executive Summary

Introduction

Swansea Council's **Corporate Plan 2023-2027** describes the council's vision for Swansea, the key council priorities (also known as well-being objectives) and the organisational values and principles that will underpin delivery of all priorities and the overall strategy. One of the key priorities is:

Corporate Well-being Objective 2023-2027

Tackling poverty and enabling communities so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.

This priority represents the Council's commitment to driving change and improvements in this area. However, it is also the key driver for the **Tackling Poverty Service (TPS)** to deliver its service objectives, priorities and plans. TPS works in partnership with local people, Council services and other agencies to reduce the effects of poverty and support people to reach their full potential.

One of the ways that TPS helps people is to administer a range of tackling poverty related grants that are available from Welsh Government and other funding sources. The Tackling Poverty Development (TPD) team is responsible for administering these grants to organisations across Swansea and its communities every year. Depending on the conditions of each grant, these funds can help people with a range of poverty related issues and challenges from affording essentials like food to improving wellbeing for people struggling with the effects of living in poverty.

In 2022/23, Swansea Council awarded £527,188 in tackling poverty grant funding. This consisted of 263 successful applications to 132 unique organisations / services as well as 350 one-off payments to individual households. This investment resulted in a diverse range of impacts on local people and communities during the Cost-of-Living crisis when people continue to need help and support.

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this document is to present the impacts made from the tackling poverty grants administered by the Tackling Poverty Development team during the reporting year 2022/23.

2. Context

In 2017, Swansea Council published **Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea: A tackling poverty strategy for Swansea**. This corporate strategy represented the Council's commitment to reducing poverty and the impacts poverty has upon the people of Swansea.

In general terms, poverty means being unable to afford the essential resources that allow you to live a minimum acceptable standard of living. Poverty is multi-dimensional, complex, growing and impacting more people in Wales.

Since 2017, progress has been made against our ambitions for tackling poverty but there has also been a lot of change, most significantly in the past three years. With almost 1 in 5 people in Wales classed as being in relative income poverty prior to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current Cost of Living crisis, those that were already experiencing financial hardship are more likely to have been pushed further into poverty and those that were at risk of poverty have been more likely to experience it.



As the Cost-of-Living crisis continued to escalate in during the reporting year 2022/23, the number of grants for individuals and organisations increased and changed to reflect the changing priorities for Welsh Government and the needs of our population. An example of this was the introduction of 'Warm Hubs' funding to create places where people could go in their local communities to spend time in a warm and welcoming environment.

3. Grants 2022/23 Overview

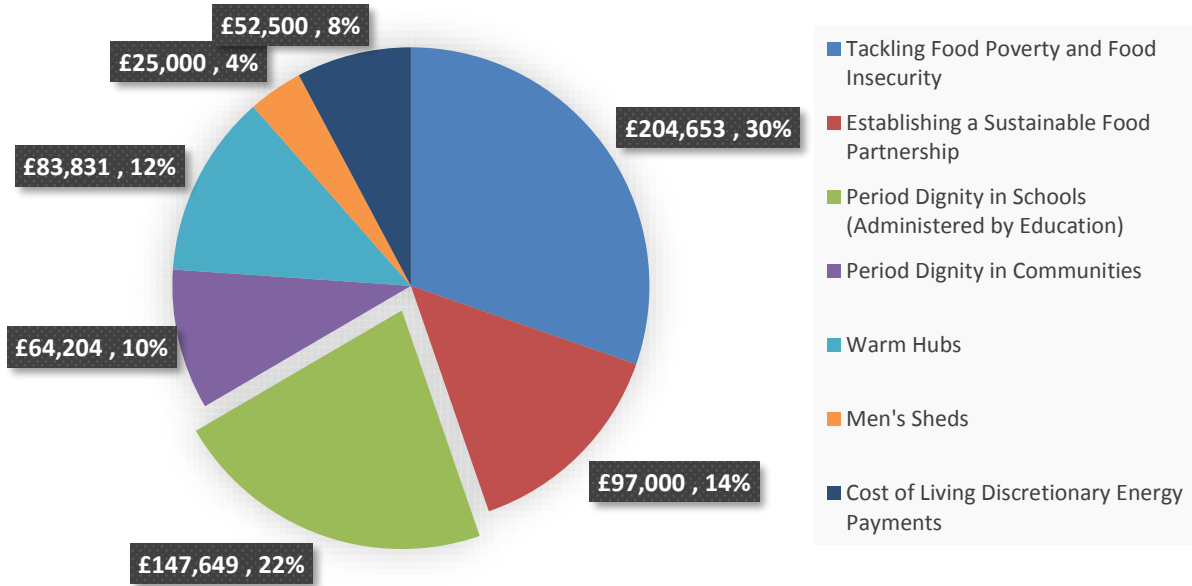
Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, TPS administered the following grants:

Grant Focus	Grant Title	Funding Source	Value	Number of applications awarded
Tackling Food Poverty and Food Insecurity	Household Support Grant	Welsh Government	£83,440	70
Tackling Food Poverty and Food Insecurity	Direct Food Support Grant	Welsh Government	£121,213	80
Establish a Sustainable Food Partnership	Sustainable Food Partnerships Grant	Welsh Government	£97,000	1
Period Dignity	Period Dignity	Welsh Government	Communities £64,204 Schools £147,649 Total £211,853	Communities 34
Establishing Warm Hub provision	Warm Hubs	Welsh Government	£83,831	70
Tackling Fuel Poverty during cost-of-living crisis	Cost of Living Discretionary Grant – Energy Payments	Welsh Government	£52,500	350
Developing Men’s Sheds Projects – improved wellbeing	Men’s Sheds	Swansea Council	£25,000	8

These grants were awarded to organisations through an application process where the bidding organisation had to demonstrate that the money was making a positive impact in the lives of people living in poverty. At the end of the reporting year, we asked each organisation to provide the evidence of the impact they had made, and the following sections of this report demonstrate this impact for each of the grants above.

Each grant had a different focus on an aspect of poverty that allowed us to ensure that we were tackling a wide range of issues and challenges facing our population. The diagram below shows how the total amount of grant funding was split across these different poverty aspects:

Grant Value by Focus



The way organisations apply for these grants follow a consistent fundamental process designed as part of our Tackling Poverty Framework. An overview of this application process is included in Appendix A for information.

4. Household Support Grant

Summary

Description	Welsh Government funding for organisations tackling food poverty and food insecurity
Grant Value	£83,440
Grants Awarded	70 successful applications over 2 funding rounds
Grant Spend	Food Supplies, Baby Food Supplies, Food Vouchers, Fridges, Freezers, Family Hygiene Supplies, Volunteer Expenses and Coordination, Overhead Contributions, Community Growing Supplies, Home Starter Kits, Cookbooks, Christmas Hampers, Fareshare Membership, Storage Solutions

Difference made for organisations

The purpose of the Household Support Grant is to enable local authorities to: Support an increased number of people facing food poverty through the provision of funding to a range of community food initiatives which are experiencing difficulties in meeting the needs of their customers across each authority. Such problems might arise from an unsustainable growth in demand for food and essential goods or difficulties sourcing sufficient donations and good food surplus to meet local needs.

The funding supported community food organisations to purchase additional supplies of good quality food and essential goods, boosting their capacity to meet the needs of their customers. The funding has also supported community food initiatives that were experiencing difficulties in operating effectively, for example, supporting costs incurred as a result of increased demand such as volunteer expenses, overhead costs and FareShare membership.

“The grant has been a big help with buying food – we are an independent foodbank relying on donations to enable us to continue supporting people with the rises in the cost of living.” - Blaenymaes Drop-In

“It has enabled children to have a healthy snack during the day and on times an additional snack for children whose parents are struggling with the cost of living.” - Blaenymaes Primary School

“The grant has made it possible for our organisation to keep helping our members through these frustrating times when the cost of essential goods is rising substantially and lowering the shopping basket. It has also helped to ensure that our members are aware of the organisation’s commitment to helping them through difficult times and times of crisis.”

– **Congolese Development Project**



“Able to support members in responsive and dynamic way which met their needs. Some foodbanks offer food options members can’t use as they don’t have access to cooking or storage facilities. Having vouchers means members have more control over what they buy, giving them dignity of choice.” - **Crisis**

“Provided additional security to maintain the provision, especially as we’ve seen an increase in running costs... We’ve seen an increase of approx. 25% in food costs, no decrease in demand, so this grant has been essential to continue to offer our service. Without it we would have run the risk of having to use reserves meant for essential building renovation work.” – **Zac’s Place**

“Your funding, combined with the support of other Welsh based funders, has meant our Swansea Townhill Project has been fully funded for this year. This financial security allows us to focus energies on volunteer recruitment and retention and guest outreach.” – **Food Cycle (Townhill)**

“The grant enabled us to cover a contribution towards the staff costs for Swansea Community Fridge, which does not receive any statutory funding. This has meant that were able to continue to offer our weekly community fridge session which supports around 200 people per week, as well as supplying food to two local schools and holiday clubs. In 2022 we supported 10,208 beneficiaries and diverted 12,295.29kg of food waste from landfill” – **Goleudy (Swansea Community Fridge)**

“Undoubtedly, we would have had to scale back what we could offer in terms of tackling food poverty had we not had this grant. With the cost of everything increasing rapidly, we had looked to scale back our provision of food, however, with this funding we were able to continue and even increase what we offered.” – **Include Hub**



“The grant has allowed us as an organisation to provide additional support in the form of free food to the individuals that attend the hub. Many of the individuals attending the hub have financial issues and this grant has enabled us to support the individuals in ensuring that they have less financial stress and are able to eat on a daily basis.” – Jac Lewis Foundation

“During a period of winter pressures and rising cost of living, this funding made a vital contribution towards our winter utility bills which again increased from the previous year, due to a combination of increased usage and a wider array of services (shower and laundry back open, café full open indoors)... During the cold winter months guests have commented that it is lovely and warm inside the building and stayed longer to enjoy the warmth and welcome. Being back open on Sunday evenings in particular meant that we could be a refuge for people struggling to heat their homes during the evening – one guest specifically commented to say they come here so that they don’t have to worry about the meter at home.” – Matthew’s House

“Provided stability and enabled the foodbank to re-stock items not being donated. Helped the foodbank run efficiently.” – North Gower Food Hub

“This grant has enabled us to continue our community lunch each week, which is growing in numbers. We have been able to buy high quality food that is nutritious and filling. This also impacts those attending as it restores a sense of dignity to them.” – St Thomas Church

“As financial pressure increases on many people due to the rising cost of living, public donations to Swansea Foodbank are decreasing as potential donors worry more about their own financial situation. At the same time, the numbers of people coming for food are increasing. The grant has enabled Swansea Foodbank to place regular orders with supermarkets to make sure that there is sufficient food on our

shelves to meet the need for food from people who are referred to us.” – Swansea Foodbank

Difference made for individuals

For individuals, community food organisations have been able to continue to provide much needed support for those experiencing food poverty and food insecurity at a time of rising demand.

“With the cost-of-living crisis deepening and costs of basic household food and other items increasing significantly and at rapid rates families are struggling more and more. This grant award has enabled us to respond urgently and in a more planned way to those struggling financially. Families have had some relief to have been able to use their income to pay for other basic needs of housing costs & utilities instead of having to choose which priority their limited money is to be spent.” – Action for Children

“Continues to be constant constructive feedback from guests who say if it wasn't for this service, they would not have a hot meal that day. Providing guests with choice of meals is important as caters for personal taste and offers dignity and respect.” – Zac's Place

“Our volunteers ran 30 meal sessions over the grant period, providing 666 meals and handing out a further 135 as takeaway for guests to enjoy at home. The meals were made from fresh fruit and vegetables donated to us as surplus, helping to tackle food poverty. The Swansea Townhill Project is based in a social housing area and has become a hub for the community, supporting local people and bringing the community together each week. Eating together is one of the best ways to meet new people, connect with your community and learn about new cultures. Our guests tell us they feel more part of their community as a result of attending FoodCycle meals. Guests have also told us they valued having somewhere warm to come to over the winter.” – Food Cycle (Townhill)

“I feel less anxious about the 6-week holidays. I have 6 children and I've been worried about how I will feed them especially as my boys are growing up fast... I don't buy much fruit and depend on the school to give my children fruit but the breakfast bags had plenty in and sometimes I could use the beans and eggs provided to make a lunch too.” – MADPAC Feedback

“It has relieved stress for those who are struggling financially, some of whom are also struggling with mental health. It gives people autonomy to choose their own food and incorporate fresh food.” – Pennard Community Council

“Providing food parcels and vouchers to people has meant that they have been given the support necessary to allow them to eat healthy food as well as heat their homes. Whilst we can only help in a small way, the difference these food parcels make to families is enormous as without them they have faced the most horrific problems through the winter months. We give our thanks to Swansea Council for the provision of this funding.” – Pontarddulais Partnership

“Helped towards aim of alleviating poverty by providing 2 free meals a week. Mitigated stress on expenditure, enabling initiatives such as food education teaching asylum seeking men how to make the most of their limited budget to eat healthily & develop cooking skills.” – **Swansea Asylum Seekers Support Group**

“We want everyone who is in need of emergency food to feel they can come to the foodbank and not struggle on alone thinking that they shouldn’t ask for help. The grant has enabled us to maintain stock levels and not further increase people’s anxiety by adding the worry that even the foodbanks are running out of food. The grant has enabled us to maintain the nutritionally balanced range of food we offer. As well as the bags of food, Swansea Foodbank offers people a listening ear, a chat over a coffee and a biscuit, the option of an appointment with a benefits advisor, signposting to other organisations and a friendly welcome. Without the food that the grant has funded, this other added value would not be possible. The funding bought 135 adult bus tickets. They have been a huge success, allowing people to get to and from the foodbank, attend benefit advice meetings plus we have helped people attend medical, probation, job centre meetings that they had to attend or have their benefits sanctioned.” – **Swansea Foodbank**

“Residents attending are experiencing hardship, feeling they have nowhere to turn. Funding enabled us to offer them a lifeline. Many commented on how they could now spend money on utilities.” – **The Hill Community Development Trust**

“Improved wellbeing, brought people together, reduce social isolation, reduced stigma around being unable to afford healthy food. Empowered people to find ways to look after themselves when money is an issue.” – **The Sharing Table**

Feedback on Grant Process

“It is a simple and quick process, and reporting is not overly onerous or time consuming.” – **Action for Children**

“Grant process was clear and straight forward with feedback on time.” – **BAME Mental Health**

“The ability to buy gift cards has been a revelation in our foodbank. The grant provider should be aware of what an amazing difference these grants make to the people in the community.” – **Cae Rowland**

“We would like to thank the Welsh Government for taking the effort to provide further support to our members during these trying times since the process was fair and effective.” – **Congolese Development Project**

“Members have been really grateful. Thank you for support.” - **Crisis**

“We found the grants process was well run, well managed, quite straight forward. It would be good to have additional continuation of such a grant given the steep rise in

food costs. The staff team at Swansea Council are particularly helpful and organised. Very easy to access and communicate with.” – **Include Hub**

“The grant process in Swansea is well organised run by approachable, supportive staff who make the grant application less onerous and daunting... An excellent, well supported grant process.” – **Sketty Foodbank**

“The finance provided is a vital lifeline and greatly valued by us as a church and by the people we have supported. I have no doubt that without it families would have faced severe hardship.” – **Townhill Baptist Church**

Sources of further information

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

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/18252/Further-funding-available-for-crisis-food-support>

5. Direct Food Support Grant

Summary

Description	Welsh Government funding for organisations Tackling Food Poverty and Food Insecurity
Grant Value	£121,213
Grants Awarded	80 successful applications over 2 funding rounds
Grant Spend	Kitchen / Cooking Equipment, Food Supplies, Baby Food Supplies, Volunteer Expenses and Training, Fareshare Membership, Storage Solutions, Community Growing Equipment, Fridges, Freezers, Overhead Contributions, Supermarket Vouchers, Toiletries, Easter Hampers, Cooking Tuition,

Difference made for organisations

The purpose of the Direct Food Support Grant is to enable local authorities to support an increased number of people facing food poverty by strengthening existing community food initiatives including a focus on activity that helps to address the root causes of food poverty.

Capital funding was available to support organisations to access, store and distribute additional supplies of food, including good food surplus, boosting capacity to provide good quality, nutritious food to their customers including purchasing fridges, freezers and cooking equipment.

Revenue funding was available to support voluntary organisations, community groups, housing associations etc. to develop or strengthen projects and to purchase additional supplies of good quality food and essential goods. The funding could also be used to provide specialist support for initiatives such as outreach, volunteer training (e.g. food handling qualifications) as well as support community food organisations that experienced difficulties in operating effectively, for example, supporting costs incurred as a result of increased demand such as volunteer expenses, overhead costs and additional costs associated with deliveries.

“It has given the opportunity to support those in financial need to look more closely at their use of utility costs and where they can reduce usage, as well as helping to identify areas where families can budget more effectively in their food shop and by bulk cooking.” – Action for Children

“We noticed that our organisation became more and more popular throughout this, which means there were lots of parents needing help out there. Our organisation is so proud to be able to help so many people.” – **Baby and Toddler Group Dyfatty**

“Without the grant the foodbank would not survive, if it did it would be with limited resources, without Fareshare membership and help with basic supplies. Our foodbank relies on this grant to continue to ensure our local community continues to receive nutritious and essential food, drink and sanitary products.” – **Cae Rowland**

“Enabled provision of support to people struggling. Able to be proactive in reducing stresses. Able to engage new people and encourage them to use other services provided.” – **Faith in Families**

“The grant has enabled us to provide real benefits to our residents who feel comfortable coming and joining in without feeling embarrassed. This has raised the profile of the Community Council in really positive ways, such as being able to show that we are maximising the use of public money by making it go further with grant support and being a friendly face for residents who are lonely and isolated. We have also built up excellent relationships with our Local Area Co-ordinator and our PCSOs who are regular attenders at the Warm Space events. We have also been able to develop our volunteer base by providing training and developing our support network for volunteers which has led to a small number offering to continue volunteering on a weekly basis where previously this was monthly. This has hugely increased our capacity to deliver for our resident.” – **Mumbles Community Council**

“The grant has made a huge difference to our organisation. The food supply from the grant has enabled some parents who live in deprivation to access nutritious foods at ‘pay as you feel’ prices. Some parents commented on their struggles to access local food banks so they utilise the Bocs instead.” – **Penllergaer Primary School**

“We have seen a massive rise in the number of people needing to access support from the food bank due to the cost-of-living crisis. This grant has helped us to ensure that all those who contact us, and are eligible, receive the support they so desperately need.” – **Pontarddulais Partnership**

“This grant has been significant for organisation as we continue to support the individuals and families who are experiencing food poverty. It’s helped in the short term to feed many through our foodbank and in the long term the money has been used to purchase items that aid a safe and welcoming space for people to attend.” – **St Thomas Church**



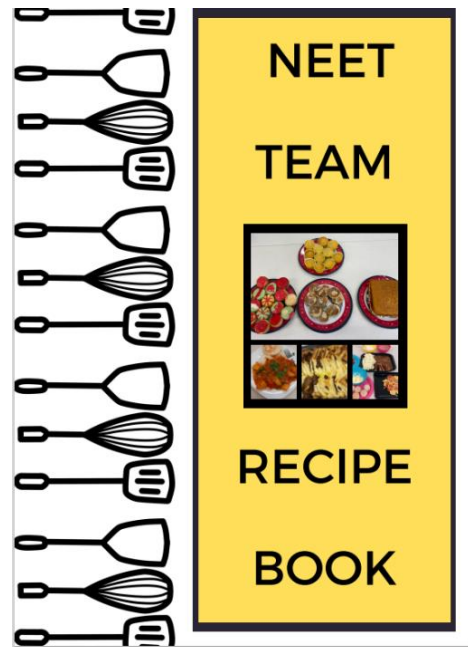
“This grant has been significant for organisation as we continue to support the individuals and families who are experiencing food poverty. It’s helped in the short term to feed many through our foodbank and in the long term the money has been used to purchase items that aid a safe and welcoming space for people to attend.” – Swansea Asylum Seekers Support



“The grant has and will continue to make a great difference to our organisation as it has enabled us to continue our relationship with some of our food donors, Lidl and fareshare. As part of their food donation programmes, we are required to accept frozen food. This additional fareshare membership and freezer will allow us to store the surplus food given to us, as well as store food produced with the ingredients supplied to our community members, enabling us to give a more diverse range of goods to those in need throughout the year.” – Swansea Community Farm

“At a time when the NEET Team is in between project funding, the Direct Food Support Fund enabled us to have an increased offer of support for the vulnerable NEET young people on our

caseloads. Without the grant we would not have been able to run regular and consistent engagement sessions, despite how impactful these sessions had been for our young people since we first introduced them. These sessions have been essential in encouraging and maintaining relationships and engagement with our young people. We would not have been able to run our cooking sessions and worked side by side with our young people, which has meant that we have developed even stronger working relationships with our young people. Through the cooking workshops and activity sessions, we have been able to support confidence building, social skills development and life skills in a way that we would have struggled to do during the lull period between funded projects. It has also had a hugely positive effect on the relationships between members of the team. We have been able to meet up and work together, which has re-established the bond the team have after significant periods of time working from home.” – Post 16 NEET Team



“Being able to help people with emergency food provision has meant we have been able to focus more quickly on other areas of tenancy related support.” – The Wallich

“This grant has made a difference to Matthew’s House in the following key ways:

- *Increased capacity through more energy and cost-efficient utilities. Reduced pressure on energy bills makes the team available to support guests and volunteers, adapt services, focus on training and source further funding.*
- *Improved collaboration with organisations during difficult winter/Christmas period. The leaflets made it easier to communicate clearly with guests about support available. Empowered volunteers to share this information widely.*
- *Improved the quality of equipment with new (working) soap dispensers and more tables for events and additional seating (particularly on our busiest Christmas Day indoors to date).*
- *Allowed us to honour volunteers and guests by overall strengthening the project.*
- *5-star food hygiene rating received (updating equipment and facilities is key to this)."*

– **Matthew's House**

Difference made for individuals

For individuals, community food organisations have been able to continue to provide much needed support for those experiencing food poverty and food insecurity at a time of rising demand.



"Families on limited incomes and struggling to survive the cost-of-living crisis have been given an opportunity to own equipment that will reduce their utility costs of cooking and have increased skills and knowledge around purchasing & preparing food more economically. Some have commented as how they can shop more cheaply than their usual food shops where they would purchase more processed foods." – **Action for Children**

"People having food delivered have begun to develop relationships with our foodbank officers and view them as trusted people. They have been asked about signposting to other support. Started to do recipe cards with people asking how to cook things and develop skills in that area. We feel that the delivery service we provide to all people using the FABRIC Foundation foodbank has enabled more people to engage with it, we also feel that we have made inroads in lessening the stigma attached to using food banks as we deliver groceries the in a similar manner to that of large supermarkets therefore the need to provide tokens and present at specific buildings to collect a parcel as in more traditional methods, which is known to have caused embarrassment and left vulnerable people who need support reticent to engage." – **FABRIC Foundation**

"Feedback from guests that without this provision they wouldn't have a hot meal. Being able to provide a choice of meals offers dignity and respect." - **Zac's Place**



“Those in temporary accommodation often don't have access to a freezer or kitchen, so can offer them nourishing food options. Gives them dignity over their own choices & builds confidence. Helped to build budgeting and cooking skills and store produce in freezer if bulk cooking. Can store homegrown veg with freezer. Storage unit enables home packs to be created with dried goods and clothing.” - Crisis

“There was a marked reduction in number of families asking for referrals to food banks. Food bags gave enough food for more than one meal, able to provide them with containers for freezing left overs. Children could enjoy a healthy meal before going home and could take a food bag home for their families... Provided a food pack and equipment to families, plus a link to support. Parents have said they and their children have tried new food, great to receive recipes with the food. Children have been involved in cooking and great to see them create and enjoy the food... Local people got access to a warm, friendly session where they felt involved and where able to have a hot, home cooked meal served to them. Many participants made new friendships and some even rekindled lost friendships. Families got the chance to sit together and chat or play board games and everyone was supported by the staff that facilitated the group. Recipe cards were given out, shopping budgets were discussed and individuals were signposted into other sessions here at the cwtch or onto different organisations to gain the support which was needed to support the individual/family further.” – Faith in Families

“This funding has contributed towards the following impact on our guests during the period 2022-23. Strengthening the project, opening up our communication, improving the quality and quantity of our facilities and equipment, and developing a volunteer team that is dedicated to our guests is all crucial to these highlights:

- *Signposting guests to a hot meal and in-person support on days we are closed via the use of the Food and Friendship leaflet. Furthermore, empowering them to share this information on with others.*
- *Supported tens of guests into permanent accommodation, sourced furniture and items to make it a home, offered volunteering opportunities and further support to sustain.*

- 192 referrals to professional support drop-ins at Matthew's House, and over 130 Buddy meetings.
- 119 volunteers in total.
- 45 shower and laundry uses, and therefore referrals from housing specialists (meaning that rough sleepers are accessing appropriate support). We have seen guests source accommodation through this avenue, who otherwise found it difficult to engage.
- 25,000 meals served and 1,400 dignity packs.
- Seven expressions of hope up and running by dedicated volunteers: additions of Matt's Shower and Laundry, Matt's Community Choir, and Matt's Buddies in the last year. More engagement by guests and opportunities for connection.
- Over 140 support services registered and approved on Hope in Swansea app.
- Christmas Day serving 92 guests - one guest told us that they wouldn't want to be anywhere else on Christmas Day, and they love looking back at their polaroids from years gone by. Another guest said it was the best food and day ever, and another had a tear in their eye leaving Santa and his beautiful Grotto. This is a story about consistency, hospitality, and awareness raising.

*We have been helping a particular guest for quite some time. Recently, we were encouraged, not by a dramatic change in their situation or circumstances, but because we had someone new signing up to become a Friend of the Matthew's House, someone who supports us monthly with a financial donation. We have a section on the sign-up form which asks: "How do you know about us?" We include this question because we are really interested to know how people find out and hear about the work that we do. Their answer was that there was a gentleman who they had recently come across while shopping in town. This gentleman was clearly struggling and when they spoke with him this gentleman replied sharing his warm feelings about us and what we do at Matt's Cafe. This was so encouraging, to know that we are not the only ones sharing about the work that we do but also those who we have managed to help, whether it be a quick fix, or whether it is being a consistent lifeline for some are sharing too. We know the importance of being here for the long haul and supporting people through their difficult moments and this is a great way to see that. We have collaborated with housing agencies at Matthew's House to support this individual in the long term." – **Matthew's House***

"The grant has made a real difference to the users of the Warm Spaces, many of whom are now regular attenders. The Ostreme Centre Warm Space, which is held on a weekday lunchtime is mainly attended by older retired people, although also the occasional parent or carer with pre-school children or babies.

We have learned by spending time talking with the attendees, that for many this is the highlight of their week as they don't otherwise socialise with anyone all week and often don't go out at all, particularly in the cold weather. The hot soup has been really welcome as they can save on cooking for themselves, or as is sometimes the case, the one day in the week when they have something hot instead of just eating a cold sandwich at home to save on cooking costs.

Although some came with friends, the majority came on their own and it has been really heartening seeing them developing friendship groups. This has been particularly the case with the men who attend who now go together to other events

and activities in the village where before they rarely went out or saw anyone for days at a time.

*West Cross has a more mixed clientele with older people coming in but also families who can be sure that their children get a hot meal and a chance to run around in a big safe space. We have board games and toys out and these too have been very well used. The activities we have been able to put on, such as craft sessions, musical entertainment and animal encounters have been thoroughly enjoyed by children and parents/carers alike who may not be in a position to be able to pay for treats like these for their children. These would not have been possible without the grant funding which has enabled us to free up money from our food budget to pay for these activities.” – **Mumbles Community Council***

*“Providing support via food parcels and shopping vouchers has meant that people have been able to access nutritious food for themselves and their families which has made a difference to their health and wellbeing and, in some cases, has avoided the need for them to access the already over-stretched statutory services... All but 3 of those supported are long term food bank beneficiaries however, with the skilled intervention of staff and clever use of scarce resources most are now starting to work towards food security and are learning the benefits of using cheaper cuts of meat, own brand food rather than branded alternatives. 2 of those supported have started to volunteer within the Centre which is building confidence.” **Pontarddulais Partnership***

*“The grant has ensured the people we support have food in their homes which will impact their physical and mental health. Along with the knowledge they have a place to turn to when times get difficult for them.” – **St Thomas Church***

*“The grant has enabled us to give food to people in our community who are not able to afford to meet their essential needs due to lack of financial resources. We want everyone who is in need of emergency food to feel they can come to the foodbank and not struggle on alone thinking that they shouldn’t ask for help. The grant has enabled us to maintain stock levels and not further increase people’s anxiety by adding the worry that even the foodbanks are running out of food. The grant has enabled us to maintain the nutritionally balanced range of food we offer. As well as the bags of food, Swansea Foodbank offers people a listening ear, a chat over a coffee and a biscuit, the option of an appointment with a benefits advisor, signposting to other organisations and a friendly welcome. Without the food that the grant has funded, this other added value would not be possible.” – **Swansea Foodbank***

*“Some families faced a bleak Christmas, this funding helped with extra food provision needed over Christmas holidays, meaning they could afford Christmas dinner for their family. This made huge difference particularly for the children who will remember a more enjoyable Christmas. Also helped single clients living alone, reduced impact on their mental wellbeing being alone at Christmas. Other clients had first food shop paid for when moving to new accommodation - reduced risk of further debt being incurred.” **The Wallich***

Feedback on Grant Process

“Due to the current cost of living, energy prices and the rise in day-to-day expenses we are finding that more and more people are becoming reliant on our foodbank to get through the week. This amazing funding enables us to continue to provide essential support to people. Long may it continue.” – **Cae Rowland**

“The grant process was clear and straight forward. The team working on the grants especially Ros were brilliantly helpful and supportive.” – **Sketty Foodbank**

“We felt the grant process was straight forward and quick. We are very grateful to have been awarded this funding as it has had a very positive impact on our young people and the work that the NEET team does.” – **Post 16 NEET Team**

“Straightforward application process and very quick turnaround time. I wish more grants were like this... The application process was refreshingly straightforward and decisions were made extremely quickly, in sharp contrasts to most other grants I've applied for! I'm extremely impressed at the way Swansea Council distributed the funding” – **The Environment Centre**

Sources of further information

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/19476/Grants-to-support-groups-tackling-food-poverty>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/Foodpovfund>

6. Sustainable Food Partnerships Grant

Summary

Description	Welsh Government funding to establish a Sustainable Food Partnership and work towards become a Sustainable Food Places Member
Grant Value	£97,000
Grants Awarded	1 successful application from the Bwyd Abertawe host organisation – The Environment Centre)
Grant Spend	Coordinator Costs, Availability of Grant

Overview of grant

Bwyd Abertawe is a network of food system stakeholders within the City and County of Swansea, including everyone who is interested in sustainable food for Swansea. The broad structure includes a Steering Group, and wider Bwyd Abertawe network. As well as sub-groups formed by the Steering Group to fulfil specific tasks and projects under the Bwyd Abertawe action plan.

The grant is supporting the progression of Bwyd Abertawe Sustainable Food Partnership throughout the 2023/24 financial year, hosted by the Environment Centre with a dedicated Coordinator.

Progress made

An application has been submitted for Swansea to become a Sustainable Food Place member. A website has been established and a small grants programme launched.

<https://www.environmentcentre.org.uk/bwydabertawe>



7. Period Dignity Grant

Summary

Description	Welsh Government funding for organisations provide period dignity products
Grant Value	£64,204 (Total grant £211,853, £147,649 Schools)
Grants Awarded	34 successful applications (Communities)
Grant Spend	Period Dignity Products, Training, Underwear

Difference made for organisations

The purpose of the Period Dignity in Communities Grant is to ensure period dignity for all and prioritising those from low-income households, providing products free of charge and accessible in the most practical and dignified way possible.

A minimum of 65% of the total amount spent on period products had to be used to purchase eco-friendly period products (i.e. re-usable products and/or plastic free) to allow maximum choice for users. In Swansea, the Period Dignity Grant in Communities spent 88% of the allocation on eco-friendly products.

“Being able to support people we counsel in low-income households (particularly girls under the age of 18) who felt embarrassed to ask for products.” – Anxiety Support Wales



“In the past we have always partnered with STOPP during our drop-in sessions and public health awareness to distribute period products to ethnic minorities based in

Swansea who needed financial assistance. This funding helped us to meet the demands of period products and we made available them to women and girls, free of charge and accessible in the most practical and dignified way possible.” – **BAME Mental Health**

“As an organisation we support a lot of people within our community. The reusable products have been beneficial because we know that people will not have to worry month to month about having to get period products. It has also meant that our food bank, for example, no longer needs to spend funds on single use period products.” – **Cae Rowland**

“The grant we received has had a profound impact on our organisation, enabling us to expand our reach and impact in the autistic community we serve. With the funding, we organized educational talks with interpretation, providing important information about menstruation and bringing women carers in our community together to create a sense of belonging and connectedness.

Additionally, distributing free reusable period products allowed us to address the critical issue of period poverty, helping women access basic necessities they may not have been able to afford otherwise and promoting environmental-friendly products. Furthermore, the grant has empowered us to advocate for period dignity, raising awareness of the issue and becoming a trusted source of support and information for women in our community. Our service users, including parent carers of autistic children, have benefited greatly from attending our talks and receiving period products. This has alleviated some of the stress and challenges associated with caring for an autistic child while providing valuable resources and support to help these families thrive. The grant has enabled us to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for our service users, promoting greater understanding and acceptance of autism in our community. Overall, the grant has made a significant



difference in the lives of the women we serve, while also helping us expand our impact as an organization. We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and will continue to work tirelessly to promote period dignity and support women in our community.” – **Chinese Autism**

“The positive message of Women’s period has been well received among the Chinese community. Many women have made a step forward to understand their body and period in a different perspective.” – **Chinese in Wales Association**

“This grant has allowed Stori to reach out to people we may not have been able to previously. We have had people attend site unaware of what Stori do and what the Domestic Abuse One Stop shop is and they have advised they are experiencing domestic abuse. By people being able to attend the site for sanitary products we have supported three of those who were experiencing domestic Abuse to have a

safe space to talk about the abuse and we have been able to sign post those clients on when necessary. It has allowed Stori to reach out to those members of the public that are struggling with the cost of living and support the wider community in Swansea.” – Hafan Cymru

“We believe that providing reusable period products together with a lesser number of disposable products encourages environmental sustainability and saves money – a very important factor during the current cost of living crisis. Prior to receipt of this grant we were aware that a percentage of menstruating people did not have access to adequate period protection products. By making sure that we have accessible period products that are displayed in our foyer area, in all toilets, classrooms etc. we are helping to alleviate period poverty in our community.” – Pontarddulais

Partnership

“This grant made periods the topic of conversation, breaking down the barriers. Allowed me to be able to provide period products to the community projects I work with, and also those I don’t. Opening doors to be able to remove stigma and allow period products to be available to all.” – Rubba Bubba with Sara

“This grant enabled us to generously supply period products to any female who came to our Food bank, whether to receive a food parcel or not.” – Sketty

Foodbank

“This grant has helped us engage with more Young Adult Carers (YAC) particularly by engaging with parent carers who have children in this YAC age group who are sibling carers, an often-hidden group of carers. It has also helped us further develop our environment policy and incorporating this good practice of encouraging the use of eco-friendly products into our environmental policy and associated action plan.” – Swansea Carers

Swansea Carers

“The grant has brought in new customers who are accessing libraries for the first time.” – Swansea Libraries



“The project helped our organisation to tackle a very pertinent subject matter to our beneficiaries. It facilitated the start of open and honest conversations around period dignity, the taboos and cultural differences associated with it, enabling our team to be better prepared to support beneficiaries who face these issues.” – The Centre for African Entrepreneurship

“It has encouraged conversations around our role in the community, access to our building and our inclusivity. It allows us to provide a valuable service and further embeds our role in

the community as a place where everyone is welcome and as a safe space.” –
Volcano Theatre Company

“It has been really beneficial to our organisation as we have been able to promote awareness of the use of period products for the LGBTQ+ community, specifically trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people. We have also been able to raise awareness of sustainable, eco-friendly and reusable products.

In addition we have been asked to take part in some working groups in relation to the products and grant via the Welsh Government which have been beneficial for sharing good practice, reflection as well as networking.

Furthermore, our own staff have benefited from an increased knowledge and awareness of reusable products as well as some of the more eco-friendly products that are available too.” – **YMCA Swansea**

Difference made for individuals

We have utilised this grant to improve access to a range of period products across Swansea including through our network of Libraries. Not only are products made available but we seek to continue to reduce the stigma associated with menstruation working with our partners to achieve a period proud Swansea.

“We organised series of Women Empowerment sessions and normalise topics like menstrual periods, menopause, and other women focused topics. We created a safe place for women to ask questions and seek information, advice, and guidance. The attendees and service users repeatedly express their gratitude to Swansea Council because of the disposable income they have to use for other equally important expenses, considering the high cost of living.” – **BAME Mental Health**

“With the current cost of living crisis, a lot of the people we support are finding themselves short of money for the essentials they need. With the reusable and sustainable products we offer, it takes one financial burden away. Along with the financial benefit people have said they are happy to be able to help the environment and learn about products they had not heard of before.” – **Cae Rowland**

“The grant has had a significant impact on those we support, particularly women in our community who may have struggled to access period products or lacked information and education about menstruation as well as the benefit of reusable products. With the grant, we were able to provide these women with free period reusable products, ensuring they have access to the necessary supplies they need to manage their periods with dignity. In addition to providing period products, the grant allowed us to deliver educational talks with interpreting about periods, breaking down the stigma surrounding menstruation and providing women with the knowledge and skills they need to manage their periods safely and comfortably. This has helped to empower women in our community by giving them the confidence and support they need to manage their periods with ease and comfort. Moreover, the grant has contributed to promoting greater awareness and understanding of menstruation in our community, helping to reduce the shame and stigma associated

with periods. This has helped to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for women in our community, enabling them to discuss periods more openly and access the support they need. Overall, the grant has made a significant difference to those we support by addressing a critical need, bring down the language barrier, providing essential products and information, and promoting greater awareness and understanding of a natural bodily process.” – Chinese Autism



“Story feedback from our parent carer:

The educational talk on period dignity has been incredibly helpful in improving my understanding of my body and reducing feelings of shame surrounding my period. As part of the initiative, I tried reusable period pads and found them to be comfortable and easy to wash. However, I did encounter one challenge - during the winter season, it was difficult to dry them properly after washing. Overall, I really appreciated the opportunity to try the reusable pads and the experience was positive. I didn't feel confidence in supporting my autistic daughter when she started puberty, especially with her heavy flow I was really struggling. Now she is using the heavy flow gifted period pants to help her get through day and night when she is having period, we both find it so much easier to manage and the period pains she gets have significantly reduced as well. The bilingual talk I attended has helped me tremendously” – Chinese Autism

“We have had lots of feedback saying this is a positive initiative from members. Members have stated that they like that we have a choice of items for them to pick from, rather than being given a pack that may not be suitable for their needs. Many people have been surprised that they are able to have eco-friendly items for free, and that we supply packs not individual items.” - Goleudy

“We have received feedback from several youths that have attended youth club to say they feel happy coming to youth club during their period, because if they don't bring a bag, they know they are able to access sanitary items without feeling shame.” – Manselton Youth Club

“We have rolled our reusable period products to people who access our food bank in order to help eradicate period poverty. We also offer products on a ‘take as you need’ basis whereby community members can drop into our foyer area and help themselves to period products that are freely available.” – Pontarddulais

Partnership

“Mums need to concentrate on supplying their family’s needs with their own needs becoming less important. The freely available period products helped to ensure that women could still maintain their dignity without taking precious money away from supporting their families. The Asylum Seekers especially liked the reusable period pads.” – Sketty Foodbank

“The feedback that was received verbally in libraries has been overwhelmingly positive and when advertised in conjunction with the Swansea Spaces offer there was fantastic feedback on posts from people. We know that in areas like Penlan, Townhill and Morriston we have seen a shift in the products that are being accessed as part of this grant and younger customers are actively approaching the libraries for reusable products like period pants, cups and reusable pads. We are hearing that customers are saving money and long term there is a positive environmental impact.” – Swansea Libraries

“The grant has been instrumental in changing mindsets of people around reusable products. We found that the use of such eco-friendly products was less than common with our communities, hence the education around them has been key and has resulted in a real shift for many. Additionally, us providing the free products has broken down the significant financial barrier for many of our service users who are economically disadvantaged” - The Centre for African Entrepreneurship

“The difference has been monumental for some of our young people especially those aforementioned who identify as trans, non-binary, gender fluid and other gender diverse identities. We consulted with these young people as to the types of products they felt they wanted. Many stated that they do not feel comfortable purchasing period products themselves due to gender dysphoria however, especially within our LGBTQ+ youth group they have been able to access them without any attention being brought onto them. Furthermore, the majority of the young people who engage with us struggle to afford products, especially the reusable ones due to the initial cost implications. This is also applicable for members of the public who use the building. With the cost-of-living crisis we feel this grant has made even more of an impact to those who are financially struggling. We support many young carers who are a prime example of this. The feedback from young people has been extremely positive and we are conscious that we might need more products in the future to meet their needs. There has been a growing interest in period pants too which might be something we look at in the future. One trans young person who identifies as male stated that he felt uncomfortable buying period products in supermarkets or shops such as boots as felt a lot of judgement from others when purchasing these products. This in turn led to decreased self-esteem, gender dysphoria and other negative thoughts. By being able to access products subtly and informally during our LGBTQ+ youth group he felt a sense of validation and far more confident to select what he needed in his own time, especially as he was with trusted adults, in a safe

space, with peers who could relate to how he was feeling as well.” – YMCA Swansea

Feedback on Grant Process

“Great opportunity to support our service users access period products.” – Blaenymaes Drop-In

“The grant process was quick and easy. You are kept informed at each step. Being able to provide free period products has given young people the confidence to be able to still attend even during their period as they are aware that there are products available.” – Manselton Youth Club

“What a brilliant grant!” – Pennard Community Council

“The process has been very user friendly, clear from the outset and easy to put into practice. The grant is so important, and we hope that it will continue in future.” – Sunflower Lounge

Sources of further information

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

8. Warm Hubs Grant – Swansea Spaces

Summary

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

Difference made for organisations

On Tuesday 20th September the Welsh Government announced £1m of funding to support Warm Hubs as safe and warm places within the local community that people can go to keep warm during the Winter. Local Authorities received grant offers in November 2022. With domestic fuel prices increasing rapidly it was expected that many people would struggle to keep their homes at a healthy temperature, particularly those people at home all day, the elderly and vulnerable. Although it should be noted that the demand for Warm Places was also expected to include others who are at home all day such as home workers.

Warm Hubs were intended as places in local communities where people could find a safe and warm environment during the day to help reduce the cost of heating their own homes and to help people facing extreme fuel poverty during winter.

At a minimum, Warm Hubs were to be places where individuals were provided with a welcoming, accessible, safe and warm environment. They should be open and inclusive and available for all in the community to use.

In Swansea, a ‘Swansea Spaces’ Directory was established and organisations, services and community groups could submit information about their space, signing up to the ‘Swansea Spaces Principles’. The funding made available directly supported the Swansea Spaces themselves and the people who attended them. This included the provision of hot drinks, snacks or meals, enrichment activities as well as the additional costs of providing the spaces.

We continue to maintain the Swansea Spaces Directory at www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseaspaces

“The grant gave us an opportunity to reach a wider range of people. The sessions grew through word of mouth and through accessing this particular session people have found out and accessed other sessions we are running.” – Faith in Families



“The grant has allowed Llangyfelach Community Council to work in partnership with Llangyfelach Church and to provide a Warm Hub for the people of Llangyfelach. It has raised our profile within the Community.” – Llangyfelach Community Council

“This grant has helped us to reach out to the community to engage people who were concerned about the cost-of-living crisis which was causing them to make heartbreaking decisions about heating or eating. In offering our warm space sessions people were able to visit and keep warm, receive energy advice and, via a different funding stream, be provided with warm home packs to help keep them warm at home.” – Pontarddulais Partnership



“The grant has enabled us to reach out to members of our community and support them by re-installing wi-fi (post covid) at The Hub and purchasing equipment for digital inclusion, creating better kitchen facilities to enable a safer, more productive, environment. Weekly sharing of soup and bread in a well maintained space is shifting the focus away from sweet treats to more healthy alternatives. Providing additional resources appears to be helping to rebuild confidence and versatility to our space post-pandemic

and slowly encouraging our community at The Hub to grow again. Receiving the

*grant encouraged us to clarify and strengthen our safeguarding policy as well as developing and adopting better food hygiene practices.” - **The Hill Community Development Trust***

*“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***

*“The Grant enabled us to provide a much needed service to the community, many of which had struggled to socialise post covid, and others who but for the warm hub would not see anyone. We provided a hot meal twice a week often to people living alone and would not cook for themselves. It has taken the worry away from people who struggled to heat their homes, if only for two days a week. We provided a warm safe environment for parents to bring their little ones, again enabling them to socialise with other parents and children. We as a committee have thoroughly enjoyed having the centre used to help so many of our community in a very difficult financial period.” – **Trallwn Community Centre***

*“The grant has enabled us to provide real benefits to our residents who feel comfortable coming and joining in without feeling embarrassed. This has raised the profile of the Community Council in really positive ways, such as being able to show that we are maximising the use of public money by making it go further with grant support and being a friendly face for residents who are lonely and isolated. We have also built up excellent relationships with our Local Area Co-ordinator and our PCSOs who are regular attenders at the Warm Space events.”
– **Mumbles Community Council***



*“We have built a group from nothing; we have made new friends by sharing a meal weekly. We have now planned and applied for funding from outside sources to carry out the community lunches on a monthly basis.” – **Manselton Community Centre***

*“Aside from hot meals, the main benefit was from reducing social isolation. the fund allowed the community centre to establish a new craft social group and to build up our 11 o'clock club, several of our new members this term have told us that we are the only place they are going socially and especially after the pandemic they have been nervous about coming to new places and have had to force themselves to come out, they have benefited from having a local group which is allowing them to reconnect to the community.” – **Bonymaen Community Centre***

“The grant has allowed libraries to demonstrate that we provide an accessible space in communities which is valued by those attending. That warm drinks offer has been welcomed by those that need a refreshment. The funding has demonstrated that our residents are valued and that supporting individuals to feel good and improve their feeling of wellbeing is important to us as a library service and to the wider council. It has provided a small gesture of welcome to local communities.” – Swansea Libraries

Libraries

“The grant has allowed us to support community members who are harder to reach within the community, the session and the support from Swansea Council staff and partners who have attended to offer advice and guidance to members of the LGBTQ+ community has been incredible. The safe space provided has also allowed us as an organisation to gather new members, support these members and build strong working relationships and confidence with members of the community who are lonely and isolated and who haven’t previously engaged with services. People have been able to speak to the police and various partners at these sessions which without them they wouldn’t have done.” - Sadies Butterflies Swansea



“The grant has enabled us to offer this much needed provision to the local community. Many people that have attended have appreciated the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and attend the Cuppa Club. People have also begun to attend other activities at the centre including the Share a Skill sessions, Short Mat Bowls and Produce Market. The Cuppa Club has grown over the 3 months and is now running once per week through the spring and summer. The volunteers have also been fundraising to raise money to keep the Cuppa Club running beyond the grant period. We have also recruited 7 volunteers that support the running of the Cuppa Club.” – Penclwydd Community Centre

Difference made for individuals

The difference made to individuals has exceeded providing warm and welcoming community spaces. We have seen the impact on supporting wellbeing and tackling social isolation, new friendships and activities being developed. This funding has provided a legacy in Swansea which we continue to support.

“We believe our activities had a double impact, with the benefits including the positive impact on physical and mental health, whilst being supported with advice and community relationships. We have seen a number of the same individuals return daily and attend other initiatives we are running. It has been so encouraging!” – St Thomas Church

“Providing a warm safe space where people could meet and develop friendships and even learn new skills is invaluable. We have been able to link people together, especially those from different generation and seeing how supportive friendships have grown skills have been shared.” – Faith in Families

“The warm hub sessions allowed local people to join in and feel part of their community. The main focus of the group was to allow people a space to feel warm and eat warm food, the hubs provided so much more than this. Individuals that came to the hubs were met with a warm welcome by someone who was able to offer support and guidance if they needed it. We held raffles and quizzes within the sessions and some new friendships were formed.

‘I leave with a fully belly and a stitch from laughing so hard. It’s a really nice group and I didn’t expect it to be as much fun as it is’

We also supported individuals by helping them to complete forms, have use our IT equipment for google searches, charge mobile phones and tablets as well as referring individuals onto other organisations to gain further assistance.” – Faith in Families

“Many of those who attended the Wednesday warm hub lunches came each week/very regularly. They made friends with others who came. There was lively conversation. Sharing tea/coffee, cake, lunch was a highlight for everyone. As we came near to the end of March, they were all asking for the sessions to continue so it was clear that they valued the lunches and the chance to meet and chat. Participants looked after each other, helped those who were more frail, forgetful to come and then to get back to their flat. We think that it brightened and warmed (literally and metaphorically) the winter days.” – St James’ Church

“People who can’t afford to eat in a good and healthy way had a chance to enjoy nourishing food that has improved their wellbeing. It helped bringing people together to reduce social isolation, helped people who don’t have and can’t afford access to healthy food and reduced the stigma around that. We provided a welcoming session, in a comfortable warm and safe environment and we also empowered people to find ways to look after themselves when money is an issue.” – Swansea Wellbeing Centre

“Friendships have been formed and isolation within the community reduced in a small way. We are very pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to continue our warm space throughout the spring and summer months with a small amount of funding provided by Pontarddulais Town Council. Whilst warm food may not be people’s priority, the opportunity to meet with others and form friendships remains high on their agenda. Many of these were already known to us through our food

bank, however a number of new faces attended the centre just to avail themselves of the opportunity to meet new people, have a warm meal, and to keep themselves warm. Some of these were aged 70+ and who have been fearful of mixing with others since the Covid-19 pandemic.” – Pontarddulais Partnership

“I have had messages from families of some of the people saying how they have struggled to get their parents out of the house and thanking us for our efforts, had villagers who had recently lost their husband/wife and were lonely at home and this got them out. Atmosphere in the room has been amazing. County Councillor calls each week, as do PCSOs when can and I have truly enjoyed running it to be honest.” – Felindre Welfare Hall

“By providing somewhere to go on a Sunday afternoon whilst the weather has not been the greatest has helped lots of people, from parents with young children, to single older adults. We have had young families attend with their children and they have been able to have a warm meal, and a hot cup of tea/coffee whilst their children have had a safe environment to play. Some of our older attendees have said how much they have enjoyed coming to the community lunch, as they have enjoyed chatting to the younger parents and watching the children playing as it reminds them of when their children were small.” – Manselton Community Centre

“There is a man across the road who started to come to our warm space after a few weeks. He has loved it ever since. He looked forward to coming over for a chat and some food. He brought a tub with him each week so he could take some food home for another day. He has been very lonely and enjoyed the fact he didn’t have to do anything just sit and chat. When he first started coming, he would stay about half an hour. By the end, he was staying the whole time. He has now linked with the Friends of Brynmelyn gardening group and although he can’t do a great deal, he is happy to sit there and chat to them on a Monday when they are there.” – Dyfatty Community Centre

“I think the best testimony for this is that all those who attend want it to carry on, without the grant it may have been hard to get this started.” – Parklands Church

“Below are some comments from Facebook. But the funding helped amplify the other free services libraries can offer to communities including signposting to the other great services offering help.”



'Love going to Central Library for our Swansea Yarnbombers group in the warm. The staff are so friendly and helpful that some of our members have joined the library and borrowed craft books. Thanks for providing this opportunity for us and so many others that attend there.'

'Fantastic library in Mumbles with really helpful, welcoming and knowledgeable staff. I'm not surprised they are offering this, they are a real asset to the local Community x'

'Gorseinon library echoes all the sentiments expressed always a joy to visit and take advantage of all the services provided with professional warmth and expertise.'

'Love and am grateful for our libraries! They all offer a safe, dry, warm, welcoming 'space throughout the year. The staff members in Gorseinon, my local, are fantastic - friendly.' – **Swansea Libraries**

"Part of quote: 'This is the first group event I have found and been able to attend in Swansea that isn't also focused on a particular sporting or alcohol-based activity, and that is hosted at a time I can fit around a full-time job. It has made such a difference to my life since January that it is hard to put into words, though I am about to try. Within this group I have found solidarity with the greater LGBTQIA+ community, more friends, contact with support organisations and charities, the local police and community support officers, Swansea council itself, and perhaps above all else, I have found a place I feel safe to be myself in, outside of my own home.' – **Sadies Butterflies Swansea**

"The grant has made a huge difference to those we support. It has brought the community together and it has helped people make new friends. It has also enabled us to influence how our families interact and play together which is invaluable. Some of those have left the following messages and there is also a video on our Facebook page:

"Absolutely amazing to see the centre so full and everyone having fun! Always said it was a wasted space. Brilliant to see what you have done"

"You have done amazing work not only for the kids but the adults too. I have loved seeing the kids enjoy, seeing old friends and catching up. Absolutely loved it!"

"Thank you for the most amazing time. It has given me something to do with my children and a place to visit to keep warm and have food."

"The holidays can be so expensive with food and poor weather so the Cwtch has been a lifesaver to my family!" – **Craigfelen Primary School**

"Recently I messaged our volunteers as we've been chatting about keeping the Cuppa Club going into spring. Our volunteers have also been fundraising to raise the cash to keep it going and it will continue once a week through the summer months. It's time for me to report back to the local authority so I also asked them to share any thoughts or ideas. I was humbled to receive the following.

“Something that stood out for me the week before last was one of the ladies wanted to help wash the dishes as she wasn’t ‘doing anything’ else that day. It just goes to show that somewhere like cuppa club helps people get out of the house.”

“I’ve thoroughly enjoyed volunteering in the cuppa club. It’s been a pleasure to get to know all those who attended and the other volunteers. It’s been great fun resurrecting the old games. 😊.

I’ve agreed with Betty & Linda that we’ll keep in touch and hopefully meet up monthly.”

“I’ve loved every minute of it volunteering and will continue when and if it restarts in the autumn.”

“Hi ladies, looking at it from the other side, I have also found that volunteering at the cuppa club has given me back some of the confidence I’d lost since giving up work. It can benefit us volunteers, as well as the people we set out to help and support. I’m happy to continue with the Tuesdays whenever possible, as and when cuppa club is running. It’s been lovely meeting everyone and would be lovely to keep in touch with a monthly coffee until it startups again hopefully in the autumn. “

“I definitely agree Jan, it’s certainly helped me get my confidence back since Paul passed. Thank you all.”

“I completely agree with Jan but for me it’s the confidence after the past 3 years of the pandemic.”

It’s been wonderful to see the Cuppa Club grow and develop over the past 3 months and fantastic to hear the difference that volunteering has made to our fantastic team of volunteers.” – Penclwydd Community Centre

Feedback on Grant Process

“The grant application was relatively straight forward and clear, its benefit is clear for all to see.” – Llangyfelach Church

“We are very grateful to City and County of Swansea for providing the grant to allow St. James to be of service to the community. The process of application and reporting has been straightforward and appropriate.” – St James’ Church

“If we knew further in advance that we would receive funding specifically to run warm-hub sessions then our volunteers would be able to better plan their own time commitments and also alert the community thereby enabling a larger cohort to attend on a regular basis. From our experiences we believe that having funding for Warm Hubs from October to March this next year could better support those in need in our community.” – The Hill Community Development Trust

“I really underestimated how much this was needed in our village, a very small village and this has made a huge different, so much so that we (the volunteers) have decided to keep it going until funds run out.” – Felindre Wellfare Hall

“The grant process was easy and understandable to apply for. We would like to see more funding opportunities made available when we enter the winter months.” – Manselton Community Centre

“The grant came very late and would have been more helpful earlier in the winter season – but grateful nevertheless. The form and process was straightforward and well managed and efficient.” – Swansea Libraries

“I thought the application process was straightforward which would enable everybody to apply without being ‘frightened’ by the form. I would also like to say that to be a part of a community, to support each other and to help people move forward with their lives – you can’t put a price on that. We strive each day we are open to help the people in our community and the Warm Spaces funding has helped us do that. Many thanks.” – Clydach Men’s Shed

“Liaising with Yvonne Bennett (TPDO) was really helpful, having someone to talk to for advice during the process made it a lot less daunting.” – St Barnabas Church

“The opportunity to apply and receive this grant has made such a difference to many LGBTQ+ community members across Swansea who have no space or engagement session to attend on a regular basis. It has connected people, helped people receive peer to peer support and build new social connections which have proven to be a lifeline to many. Thank You for the support and help and believing in Sadie’s Butterflies to provide this valuable service to the LGBTQ+ community.” – Sadies Butterflies Swansea

“This funding has proved invaluable to our community. A massive thank you for supporting us with the funding and enriching our community.” – Craigfelen Primary School

Sources of further information

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/MoreSwanseaSpaces>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/SwanseaSpacesPR>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/SwanseaSpaceLindenCentre>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/BAMESpace>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/Sadiesbutterflies>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/LlangyfelachSwanseaSpace>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/SwanseaSpacesLibraries>
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/Spacethankyou>

9. Men's Sheds Grant

Summary

Description	Swansea Council funding to support and develop Men's Sheds projects in Swansea
Grant Value	£25,000
Grants Awarded	8 successful applications
Grant Spend	Growing Supplies, Overhead Contributions, Tools and Equipment, Building Improvements, Volunteer Expenses, Refreshments, Storage Solutions

Difference made for organisations

In recognition of the wealth of skills and experience which exists within communities, and of the positive impact of Men's Sheds on health, well-being and in reducing social isolation, Swansea Council once again made funding available for the development of existing and new Men's Sheds in Swansea.

'Men's Sheds' are social groups or enterprises set up in local communities, for social interaction and promoting positive well-being, they are self-governed and self-supported. How each individual shed looks and the activities that take place in them, depend entirely on the skills and interests of the group. Further information on Men's Sheds can be found here: www.mensshedscymru.co.uk/

WALKING
for Wellbeing

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH OUTDOOR SUPPORT GROUP

- A chance to make the most of our natural surroundings in a communal men's walk.
- Going out and about in the company of others can motivate us to go places we may not go when by ourselves.
- With no pressure, or set agenda, it can be easier to talk and connect with others whilst walking.

One step at a time...

THURSDAY - 12PM

WE MEET on the sea wall opposite the kiosk (the Secret Café).

All enquiries email centre@wellbeingswansea.co.uk

"Enabled us to grow our project, reaching more individuals and enabled us to buy tools and supplies for our activities." – **Petallica Flower Farm**

"It has been fundamental to the successful function & running of the group. Provided us with tools & equipment for longer term." – **Summit Good**

"Prior to this grant we had 2 pottery wheels (benefit of previous men's shed grant) but more were needed for a full class/workshop activity. We are now in that situation. Likewise, we are now able to start sewing/crochet activity for the first time." – **Swansea Community Workshop**

"The project has been a great success. Supported men from all walks of life." – **Swansea Wellbeing Centre**

"It's allowed us to expand our number of projects and with it our membership. Enabled us to purchase and store more tools and equipment." – **Ynystawe Cricket Club**

Difference made for individuals

The network of Men's Sheds in Swansea continues to grow, attracting wider audiences and providing opportunities for people to socialise, engage in activities, learn new skills and improve their wellbeing.

"Enabled us to support them, emotionally & socially. Many of the men just need a good listening ear and value time together. This has led to improved wellbeing and quality of life for the men." – **Summit Good**

"Encouraged people to get involved and do more in their own gardens. Seeing our lovely flowers & plans has encouraged people to call in for a chat and they have returned week after week. Calling in to chat about flowers, extending the chat and having someone to listen has literally saved lives." – **The Old Blacksmiths**

"Has allowed those with disabilities to get more involved. The partnership with the charity Sporting Memories has encouraged us with additional resources to improve our services." – **Ynystawe Cricket Club**



Feedback for Grant process

"Very simple and easy with good communication." – **Pontarddulais Partnership**

"It's first class and made a difference thank you." – **Ynystawe Cricket Club**

Sources of further information

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

10. Cost of Living – Discretionary Fuel Payments Grant

Summary

Description	Welsh Government funding to support those disproportionately impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis
Grant Value	£52,500
Grants Awarded	350 payments of £150 to individual households
Grant Spend	

Overview of grant

This grant was made available to internal council services through Social Services, Tackling Poverty and Housing. The grant enabled services such as the Tenancy Support Unit and Housing Rents Team to make applications for support for their most vulnerable tenants.

The funding targeted those at most risk to their health of having a cold home and those on low incomes who were struggling with essential bills. The funding has supported people with their essential bills during the cost-of-living crisis. The administration of this grant was an example of good cross directorate collaboration.

Outcomes

350 households most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and most at risk were supported with a one off payment of £150.

11. Summary

Funding from Welsh Government and the Council has proved essential in supporting the network of services, organisations and community groups across Swansea to meet unprecedented levels of demand for their services.

Levels of food poverty and food insecurity have been extremely high following the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent Cost of Living Crisis. More people and households have needed essential support including many that have not previously needed help.



The Tackling Poverty Development Team have worked to maximise the impact of available funding in a timely and efficient manner. We work with our partners across Swansea to design and improve our grant giving processes to ensure that they are open and accessible, meet local needs and the team are always on hand to help applicants through the application process, during the delivery of the activity and monitoring process.

During 2022/23, the team reviewed and improved our monitoring forms to gain a greater insight into the difference that the funding is making and to provide feedback on our processes for further improvement.

We would like to recognise and give thanks to our grant recipients for the work they do in delivering these essential services and supporting the people of Swansea. We would also like to recognise and thank our colleagues that are involved in our processes from the Web Development Team and Corporate Communications Team to Funding Panel Members, Cabinet Members and Councillors and those that are working with and supporting our applicants.

To contact the Tackling Poverty Development Team email tacklingpoverty@swansea.gov.uk

