

CRF WARM SPACES WITH WRAPAROUND SUPPORT GRANT CRITERIA

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Worcester City Council has launched the Warm Spaces with Wraparound Support Grant Programme, funded through the Government's Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) 2026/27.
- 1.2 The programme is designed to support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to provide warm, safe and welcoming spaces for residents experiencing financial hardship, fuel poverty, loneliness, social isolation or other barriers to wellbeing.
- 1.3 The programme aims to support to support early intervention and prevention by creating trusted community settings where residents can access social connection, information, signposting and referrals into wider support services where appropriate.
- 1.4 Funding is available for organisations delivering Warm Spaces and associated activities that improve wellbeing, strengthen community resilience and help residents access support before issues escalate into crisis.
- 1.5 Recognising that some residents face barriers to accessing services, funding may also support transport, outreach or other practical measures that enable residents to attend one or more Warm Spaces funded through the programme.
- 1.6 Funding is available for organisations that can deliver locally tailored activities while maintaining strong referral pathways into advice, guidance and support services where appropriate. Successful projects will demonstrate a commitment to proactive engagement, early identification of need and timely intervention before issues escalate into crisis.
- 1.7 Worcester City Council has allocated £40,000 through the Crisis Resilience Fund to support the delivery of projects under this programme. Grants will be awarded to eligible VCSE organisations to deliver activities that contribute to the objectives and outcomes set out in this document.
- 1.8 VCSE organisations are invited to submit applications for funding up to a maximum of £10,000.
- 1.9 Applications will be assessed in accordance with the eligibility and scoring criteria contained within this document.
- 1.10 The deadline for submitting applications is 11:59pm on 18 November 2026.

2. Organisation Eligibility

- 2.1 Organisations applying for a CRF Warm Spaces with Wraparound Support Grant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Registered Charity, Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or Community Interest Company (CIC). Grants are not available to individuals.
- Have a UK bank account requiring at least two authorised signatories.
- Have been established and operational for at least 12 months.
- Demonstrate experience of delivering community-based support, engagement or wellbeing activities.
- Demonstrate the organisational capacity, skills and governance arrangements necessary to deliver the proposed activity.
- Be able to work collaboratively with other organisations and statutory partners where appropriate.
- Hold appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures for working with young people.

3. Grant Eligibility

3.1 Funding may be used to deliver activities that contribute to one or more of the following priorities:

- Providing warm, safe and welcoming community spaces.
- Reducing loneliness and social isolation.
- Supporting residents experiencing financial hardship or fuel poverty.
- Improving wellbeing and community resilience.
- Early intervention and prevention activities.
- Information, signposting and referral into wider support services.
- Improving awareness of available support and community resources.
- Supporting access to Warm Spaces through transport, outreach or accessibility measures.
- Strengthening connections between residents and local support networks.
- Activities that remove barriers preventing residents from accessing support.

3.2 Projects must benefit residents who live within the City of Worcester.

Priority may be given to projects supporting residents who are:

- Experiencing financial hardship.
- Affected by fuel poverty.
- Socially isolated.
- At risk of poor wellbeing.
- Facing barriers to accessing support services.
- At greater risk of adverse outcomes due to personal, family or socioeconomic circumstances.

3.3 The project must be a separate activity with measurable outcomes as opposed to usual business operations and costs such as salaries, rent and utilities.

3.4 If applications are made to fund an existing project operated by the organisation, the application must demonstrate how the CRF grant will deliver additionality, e.g.

extension of support to a larger number of young people; extension of service to include additional days or hours of operation.

- 3.5 No more than 15% of the grant can be spent on administrative costs associated with delivering the project.
- 3.6 Applications must demonstrate how residents will be identified and engaged, with a particular focus on vulnerable individuals and households who may benefit from preventative support or early intervention.
- 3.7 Projects must be capable of commencing promptly following grant award.

4. Monitoring Requirements

- 4.1 Successful applicants must be able to provide information on:
 - Number of residents engaged.
 - Number of sessions or activities delivered.
 - Number of residents attending Warm Spaces.
 - Number of residents receiving information, signposting or referrals.
 - Number of referrals made to support services.
 - Number of residents supported through transport or accessibility arrangements.
 - Participant feedback and satisfaction.
 - Evidence of improved wellbeing and community connection.
 - Evidence of reduced loneliness or social isolation.
 - Case studies demonstrating impact.
 - Examples of successful early intervention.
 - Partnership working and referral pathway activity.

5. Scoring Criteria

- 5.1 Applications will be assessed and scored in accordance with the criteria set out in the table below.
- 5.2 The criteria aim to ensure the best use of limited funding to help support the delivery of quality projects through a fair and transparent process.
- 5.3 The scoring will be conducted by Worcester City Council. Applicants will receive feedback on the application, including the scoring, on request. Assessment of applications by other applicants will not be made available for comparison. The decision of the Council is final and there is no right of appeal.
- 5.4 Each criteria will be scored individually from 0-5 (low-high) with the overall scores determining whether an application should be funded.

Criteria	Description
A. Fit with Grant Aims and Criteria	The application clearly demonstrates how the proposed project aligns with the aims, priorities and eligibility requirements of the Warm Spaces with Wraparound Support Grant Programme.
B. Project structures and outcomes	The project has a clearly defined purpose, delivery plan, target audience and measurable outcomes.
C. Need	Evidence is provided demonstrating local need and demand for the proposed activity. Evidence may include local data, consultation, feedback or previous experience.
D. Benefits	The project demonstrates clear benefits for residents and complements existing provision without duplication. Applications should identify anticipated beneficiary numbers and wider community benefits.
E. Measurement and impact	The application demonstrates how outcomes and impact will be measured and reported, including evidence of improved wellbeing, reduced isolation, increased community connection or improved access to support.
F. Capacity	The organisation demonstrates that it has the people, skills, safeguarding arrangements, resources and experience necessary to deliver the project successfully.
G. Value	Project costs are reasonable, proportionate and demonstrate effective use of public funding.
H. Community Coordination and Partnership Working	The project demonstrates how it will strengthen links with local services, increase awareness of support, support effective referral pathways and, where appropriate, improve access to Warm Spaces through partnership working and accessibility measures.