



The Cost of living

Public Health Update



Warm spaces grants

Public Health has agreed to provide a Grant to **Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** to enable organisations to support the warm space charter.

No. of grants awarded: 34

Total value: £118,849

For the period 19th December 2022 to 8th January 2023 (for sites who made complete returns), a total of 328 people as accessing warm spaces.

Sandwell Warm Spaces Charter

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200374/warm_spaces/4978/warm_spaces_charter

Stuart from SCVO said “this is the most successful and in demand grants process we’ve ever done. The pace and partnership working between public health and SCVO has been brilliant. The process received more bids in the first round than it ever has, from a wide range of organisations, including ones that have not been part of a funded council response before”



Warm spaces grants

Some comments that we've received as part of ongoing feedback:

We had a Christmas sing-along with one of our volunteers playing the guitar. This was a lovely activity that people enjoyed very much.

We have seen a steady amount of people using the winter warmer .We have noticed that more men are using the service, then women.

Had a pianist come today to play and sing Christmas carols. The group were reminiscing about loved ones and past Christmases. A lovely time shared together. There were also sandwiches and cakes available. Several attendees live on their own and are in need of care and support.

Having a craft activity on our main communal table has really helped people connect. Even if they don't do the craft, it seems to be less pressure to 'talk' - although lots of natural chat happens!

This event is becoming increasingly popular and the free hot drinks make a big difference to people who are on tight budgets.

An elderly lady who's family came to the UK as refugees has started coming each week. She struggles with English but yesterday said to me: "Today I am happy. I am made happy because here are people with good hearts. I can sit and see people and they have good hearts. I am happy."





83,495

**visits to library Warm Spaces
since October 2022**



36,632

**visits during
December 2022**

December highlights

- Live music events
- Family theatre
- Christmas grotto events,
- Author talks
- Learning in libraries,
- School class visits
- Black Country Toy Appeal
- Stand United - Curry Kitchen
(Smethwick Library)

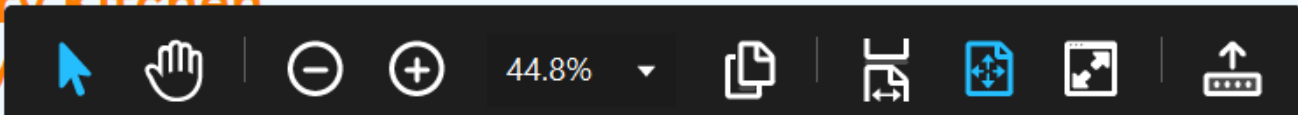


**10,761 hot drinks
served**



**736 devices
charged**

October 2022



SUPPORTING
SANDWELL
WITH THE COST OF LIVING

information hub stats

www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell

since launch
19 October 2022

7,900 hits



Warm Spaces

6,400 hits



Energy

6,300 hits



Bills

4,900 hits



Food

4,300 hits



Money matters

1,200 hits



Tips and advice

800+ hits



Health

310+



Whatsapp sign ups

PLUS

25,000+ hits

Supporting Sandwell
homepage

Winter warm packs

Public Health ordered 600 winter warm packs, so far we have issued 536 packs, with 64 remaining due for distribution.

What was in the Pack:

- Socks
- thermal gloves
- 120 x 150 cm fleece blanket
- fleece scarf/neck warmer
- thermal hat
- insulated travel mug 420 ml

I wanted to share with you 3 residents comments who got in touch regarding the winter warmth bags they had received.

- really grateful items came in use.
- I only needed a couple of the items so I shared with my neighbour you could of blown me away cant thank the council enough.
- Can you pass on my gratitude for my gift I now use the throw instead of my heating, I make use of the neck warmer (scarf) and I have my hot drinks in the flask to keep them warmer also its nice to know the council are thinking of us never known it.



Cost of Living champions

Following on from the COVID champions model which enabled Public health to win the national award and building on the information from the Sandwell Wellbeing survey, which showed that most residents will turn to friends and family for advice.

The launch of Cost of Living champions to enable every day citizens to become trained in making every contact count and using the social connections to educate and inform on what channels of support are available.

Further sessions are planned across the NHS and local partners.

Total number of sessions delivered	12
Total number of presenters	7
Total number of attendees	153



Cost of Living Booklet

Cost of living booklet – the Council have produced a booklet that contains vital health, safety and service information which contains potentially lifesaving advice and support. The cost of living booklet provided up to date information on support available across the borough in order to reduce the impact of the cost of living increases. It was a reference guide for our residents.

The booklet has so far been distributed to:

- 134,000 residents
- 2,000 care home residents
- 500 copies for public buildings (including libraries)
- 100 assigned for HR event for Sandwell Council employees, 250 assigned to Lion Farm Action Centre, 50 to Vidal Lee, Community Transport, 300 to Rood End Medical Centre
- 500 for our public health development officers to distribute to other key locations in the six towns.

An easy read version of the document was also created for use by Sandwell Visually Impaired (SVI) which will work with voice screen reader software.

Furthermore a digital version was created:

<https://view.publitas.com/renaissance-creative/23394-sandwell-cost-of-living-booklet/page/1>

We also gave residents the option request the booklet in other languages via Sandwell Council website:

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200371/cost_of_living_help/5012/sandwell_cost_of_living_booklet

