
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	13 September 2022
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/23/22/GB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712748
Subject:	Warm Hand of Friendship		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to identify the additional activities that will be launched during Anti-poverty week (3-9 October 2022) to support the Inverclyde Community with the cost of living over winter 2022/23, in particular in relation to keeping warm and extending the “Warm Hand of Friendship”.
- 1.3 The intention is to provide a directory of warm spaces and warm activities and to work with the third sector and partners to promote these across Inverclyde. Warm boxes will also be provided to those who are most vulnerable through HSCP.
- 1.4 Communities will be encouraged to participate in initiatives and it is proposed that small grants will be made available through CVS for those offering additional activities or support.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of this report and agree that £100,000 be allocated to CVS to administer a small grants scheme linked to this proposal funded from the unallocated balance in the Anti-Poverty earmarked reserve.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Education Communities & Organisational Development to work with CVS to develop and deliver the grant scheme with an update on progress being included in a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A comprehensive report on anti-poverty interventions already in place to address employment, support for families, food insecurity and financial help is already being considered by the September 2022 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. Paragraph 4.12 of this report refers to work being undertaken by the officer group to identify further support for communities, particularly in relation to “warm spaces” and “warm boxes”.
- 3.2 Given the national concerns about increasing fuel prices and the cost of living, Council and HSCP officers have worked in partnership with the third sector to promote a joined up approach to supporting communities under the banner of the “Warm Hand of Friendship”. The group have looked at good practice from across the country and will launch this initiative during Challenge Poverty week (3-9 October 2022)

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Warm Hand of Friendship aims to provide support to communities but also to encourage communities to work together to help each other during the winter months.
- 4.2 The intention is to create a directory of all the places available to Inverclyde residents across the public, health and voluntary sectors so that anyone who is cold knows where they can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments. Inverclyde Life will also identify activities that are already in place through their directory and can be identified as either warm spaces or warm activities. This makes it easy for members of communities to search through the wide range of activities already taking place.

In addition, library services will increase their offer of activities in order to facilitate and promote libraries as warm spaces during the winter months.

- 4.3 A small grant will be made available to voluntary sectors who wish to offer warm spaces through additional activities during this winter (or activities linked to paragraph 4.4) and this will be administered by CVS Inverclyde. The funding for the grant will be taken from the anti-poverty earmarked reserve and it is anticipated that up to £100,000 will be made available to support initiatives linked to the warm hand of friendship. Further work needs to be undertaken as to the administration of the scheme and the capping of each grant and approval is sought to delegate the finalisation of proposals to the Corporate Director of Education and Communities.
- 4.4 HSCP, subject to IJB approval, will support “Warm boxes” primarily targeted at the elderly and those who receive care at home. Other provisions in place e.g. Inverclyde cares boxes and starter packs boxes will also be enhanced to incorporate items to help with warmth. The cost of the warm boxes will be met by HSCP but will be expected to be in the region of £30,000.

Community organisations may want to adopt the “Warm boxes” initiative or take forward something similar. Many school communities already have uniform banks or clothes shares in place and they may wish to enhance this offer to winter coats and warm leisure wear. The aim of the “Warm Hand of Friendship” is to encourage communities to think about the types of support they can offer and how this might be rolled out. The small grant operated by CVS will also be made available to community groups wishing to seek financial help to provide warm boxes or clothes share initiatives.

- 4.5 Challenge Poverty Week will also see the launch of other initiatives. This includes the launch of the Food Aid Network information Leaflet and also launch the public consultation of the Financial Inclusion Strategy.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty	X		
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing	X		
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Anti Poverty	Earmarked Reserve	2022/23	Up to £100k		Funded from the unallocated balance in the reserve
IJB	Reserves	2022/23	£30k		Consideration of this will be given by the IJB later this month

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

A letter identifying the terms of the distribution of grant will be agreed with CVS prior to allocation of the money.

5.4 Human Resources

N/A.

5.5 Strategic

This paper promotes mitigating actions to address inequalities in line with the LOIP.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

This paper support those who are impacted by the cost of living.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

X	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Corporate Management Team are supportive of the proposals within the report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.