
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	21 January 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/16/25/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan Head of Culture, Communities & Organisational Development	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Warm Hand of Friendship Grants 2024/25		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the successful applications for funding through the Warm Hand of Friendship Initiative for 2024/25.
- 1.3 The Warm Hand of Friendship fund, initially set up in 2022 with £100,000 from the Inverclyde Council Anti-Poverty Budget, aims to support local community organisations in Inverclyde. The initiative helps these organisations deliver essential services to their communities, particularly during the colder autumn and winter months. By focusing on grassroots activities, the initiative provides local organisations with an opportunity to better understand and address the specific needs of their communities.
- 1.4 Inverclyde Council has supported the Warm Hand of Friendship initiative in both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 winter periods, assisting around 50 local community organisations per year to deliver services such as safe warm spaces, meal provision, and community activities.
- 1.5 In September 2024, the Policy and Resources Committee approved an additional £120,000 per year to fund the initiative through to March 2027.
- 1.6 As part of this funding round, 53 organisations have successfully applied for grants of up to £3,000 each. These grants will be used to provide food, warmth, and safe meeting spaces for people in their local communities or with shared community interests.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee
- notes the progress made in the distribution of Warm Hand of Friendship funding initiative.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Warm Hand of Friendship fund, established in 2022 with £100,000 from the Inverclyde Council Anti-Poverty Budget, aims to provide financial support to local community organisations. This initiative seeks to deliver support for grassroots services that cater to the unique needs of communities during the winter months, offering opportunities for local organisations to connect with and understand the people they serve.
- 3.2 During the 2023-2024 winter period, the Warm Hand of Friendship initiative supported 58 local community organisations, enabling them to provide vital services such as warm spaces, food, clothing, and community activities.
- 3.3 In September 2024, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to continue funding the initiative through March 2027, with an additional £120,000 allocated annually from the Council's Anti-Poverty fund
- 3.4 To strengthen the governance of the initiative, additional scrutiny has been applied to the funding process from 2024. Applications for funding must now align with other grant processes such as the Community Grants Fund, and financial awards cannot exceed £3,000 per organisation. In addition, applications are assessed by a team of senior officers.

To qualify, organisations must meet the following criteria:

- Actively deliver services in Inverclyde;
 - Be a non-profit entity with Public Liability Insurance (where applicable);
 - Have a constitution, set of rules, or Memorandum and Articles of Association, signed and adopted by an office bearer;
 - Hold a bank or building society account requiring at least two signatures for cheque or withdrawal; and
 - Ensure the grant is spent within one year of the award date.
- 3.5 To increase community engagement in the process, a pilot programme to use the Council's Community Choices platform was introduced in 2024. Each organisation was required to upload their planned activities for feedback on the Council's Community Choices platform. 253 community members commented on the platform their view on the impact and outcomes of these initiatives which provided the assessment panel with some community opinion on the planned initiatives. An evaluation of this approach will be undertaken following the allocation of the second round of applications early in 2025.

4.0 DETAILS OF AWARDS

- 4.1 Following assessment, a total of 53 local organisations were awarded a total of £83,940 in funding. Four further organisations did not meet the governance criteria or are being asked to provide further information. Details of all applications, a brief summary of their planned initiative and their funding allocations are set out in Appendix 1. A balance of £36,000 remains, and another round of applications will be sought in January 2025.
- 4.2 A further review of the impact and outcomes of the Warm Hand of Friendship initiative will be presented to the Education and Communities Committee later in 2025.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		
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 EMR		2024/25	£83,940		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

Tackling the causes of poverty and deprivation to reduce inequalities in Inverclyde is a key priority for Inverclyde Council and HSCP. This report provides recommendations which are in line with this priority.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(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?

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

(c) 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.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts, positive or negative, 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.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	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 None

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

	Organisation	Application details	Amount Awarded
1	Grieve Road Community Centre	Offer of warm place and food via extending hours on existing Thursday sessions	£2,000.00
2	Auchmountain Centre	Provision of warm hub and warm boxes	£2,000.00
3	Inverclyde Shed	Offering a variety of sessions and hot drink in heated accommodation limiting loneliness and social isolation	£2,000.00
4	Ravenscraig Centre	Provision of warm space every week- soft play provision and hot refreshments	£2,000.00
5	St Patricks RC Church	Provision of warm space and food as well as warm clothing to those who attend the church foodbank	£1,620.00
6	Mount Kirk	Provision of warm space and food/hot drink every Friday	£1,500.00
7	Inverclyde Community Care Forum (Your Voice)	Provision of warm space at weekly drop in at Coppermine Cafe offering hot food, advice and exercise session	£2,000.00
8	Greenock Torpedo Factory Club	Provision of 'Soup and Blether' for the elderly every Friday	£1,500.00
9	Inverclyde Community Care Forum (Your Voice)	Provision of warm space at the weekend offering hot food, clothing and support	£1,000.00 Conditional
10	Clyde Coast Radio	Travel for disabled presenters, refreshments and radio licence to keep engaged with the community	£750.00 Conditional
11	32nd Greenock & District Scout Group	Warm space 3 evenings a week at Bank St Hub for hot drink/snack and board games	£1,500.00
12	Greenock Boxing Club	Provision of warm space during weekly bingo night where soup and hot drinks will be provided	£1,000.00 Conditional

	Organisation	Application details	Amount Awarded
13	Compassionate Inverclyde	Provision of warm space and lunch at the weekly Friendship Hub. Additional items offered to help users keep warm	£1,750.00
14	Hope Community Church	Provision of warm space with food and drinks provided	£1,500.00
15	Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (Broomhill Gardens and Community Hub)	Provision of weekly lunch group with opportunity to socialise and use the facilities	£2,000.00
16	GFS Ltd (Old West Kirk)	Provision of warm place for social interaction and snack/hot drink	£1,600.00 Conditional
17	Moving on Inverclyde	Provision of lunch twice weekly to those accessing services	£2,000.00
18	Boglestone Activity Centre	Provision of warm space every Tuesday - soft play provision and hot refreshments/soup	£2,000.00
19	Lady Octavia Sports Centre	Provision of warm space every Friday - soft play/badminton/pickleball provision and hot refreshments	£1,600.00
20	Oor Club	Equipment for a cook school for young adults of the club	£0.00
21	Greenock Sports Centre	Provision of warm space weekly - soft play provision and hot refreshments	£1,500.00
22	Port Glasgow New Parish Church	Extension to their Friday Chatty Café. Provision of warm space every Wednesday offering food and companionship	£2,000.00

	Organisation	Application details	Amount Awarded
23	Inverclyde Indoor Bowling	Provision of warm space weekly with hot drinks provided and free access to bowling rink at allocated times	£1,000.00
24	Salvation Army	Currently offer warm space one day a week for hot drink and soup. Funding would allow extra meals to be offered and food parcels for individuals/families	£1,920.00
25	Gourock Park Bowling Club	Provision of warm space with entertainment and hot drinks	£2,000.00
26	Inverclyde Vineyard Church	Previous grant helped establish a community café. Further funding would allow the provision of adult and family gatherings - 5 sessions at Old West Kirk	£1,000.00
27	Wellington Park Bowling Club	Provision of warm space every Sunday with activities and food/hot drinks.	£1,400.00 Conditional
28	Home Start Inverclyde	Provision of hot food to the 5 groups currently operating ensuring they are warm and fed encouraging more social interaction	£2,000.00
29	The Wyllieum	Provision of warm space every Wednesday-Sunday with activities and hot drinks/snack available	£1,800.00
30	Ambassador Church	Offering free weekly lunch club open to all the community. Since starting lunch from the church halls, numbers have increased with young families also now attending	£2,000.00
31	RIG Arts	Provision of warm space and creative art sessions for older adults	£2,000.00
32	Greenock Wanderers RFC	Provision of hot food/refreshments for all parents/children who attend weekend training	£1,500.00
33	Larkfield Housing Association	Provision of warm space at soup and blether sessions at Larkfield Community Hall	£2,000.00
34	The Trust	Social spaces for people to attend to take part in activities, socialise and keep warm - catering provided	£2,000.00

	Organisation	Application details	Amount Awarded
35	Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare	Provision of food/clothing vouchers for participants/volunteers, social activity and Christmas dinner	£1,000.00 Conditional
36	Grosvenor Bowling Club	Provision of warm space every Sunday with snack/hot drink and opportunity for social interaction	£1,000.00
37	Families in the Know Inverclyde	Provision of warm space with soup/ sandwiches/hot drink and opportunity for social interaction and support via partner connections	£1,000.00 Conditional
38	Greenock Southwest Community Council	Provision of warm space monthly with hot food/ refreshments	£500.00
39	Beacon Arts Centre (Dance for Parkinson's)	Weekly dance classes for those affected with Parkinson's giving warm space and social interaction	£550.00
40	Parklea Association Branching Out	Provision of warm space, hot drink/snacks and food packs	£2,000.00
41	St Johns Church Gourrock	Extended provision of Bowl & Blether to twice a month, hosting Ukrainian community group and several one-off event: family ceilidh, quiz night, evening for those recently bereaved and family film night	£2,000.00
42	Westburn Parish Church	Continuation of service providing warm space every Wednesday with tea, coffee and soup	£1,500.00
43	Victoria Bowling Club	Children's Christmas Party providing food, gift, entertainment and games. Weekly bingo with snack/hot drink and opportunity to socialise.	£850.00 Conditional
44	Cloch Housing Association	Cozy Connections - provision of warm space with soup/sandwiches, social interaction and information/support from partners	£2,000.00
45	Oak Tree Housing	Provision of Winter Warmer Café - warm space with hot food and opportunity to socialise	£2,000.00
46	1st Gourrock Scout Group	Provision of a drop in café every Tuesday for all ages during the winter months offering warm space and food/hot drinks	£1,500.00
47	Port Glasgow Church of Nazarene	Provision of warm space one evening a week offering hot food and space to socialise	£1,800.00 Conditional

	Organisation	Application details	Amount Awarded
48	Inverclyde Athletics	Hydration and Replenishment initiative for junior athletes who receive nutritional advice and food after sessions. Inclusion sessions for young people at Ravenscraig	£1,000.00
49	BOUNCE Basketball Inverclyde	Provision of zero cost family entertainment day for members	£1,000.00
50	Gibshill Community Centre	Provision of warm space with soup/ sandwiches and groceries for the community fridge	£2,000.00
51	Youth Connections	Provision of warm space with soup/ sandwiches and groceries for the community fridge	£2,000.00
52	Branchton Community Centre	Provision of warm space every Thursday with soup/sandwich. Warm boxes offered via community shop	£2,000.00
53	Inverkip Church	Provision of warm space every Friday offering soup, rolls, hot drink	£800.00
54	Man On! Inverclyde (Anchor)	Provision of warm space every Monday offering hot drink, warm boxes and help with groceries	£2,000.00 Conditional
55	Jac G Ventures	Provision of teambuilding activities to help reduce social isolation	£0.00
56	Crow Cottage Arts	Provision of workshops allow for creative learning and companionship	£0.00
57	Greenock Players	Production of adult and youth One Act plays for participation in the drama festival held in The Beacon	£0.00
	Totals		£83,940.00