

Spaces & Places Collaborative

27 October 2022





Hello,

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to our Places and Spaces event. The event's main aim was to learn about some specific Cost of Living funding from our partners at East Renfrewshire Council and the opportunity to discuss ways in which our third-sector partners and community organisations could use this funding.

The outcomes of this event will ensure our most vulnerable residents know where they can access the support they need. We will continue to work with all partners and stakeholders to ensure our community places and spaces can provide much-needed activities, support and services to combat all aspects of cost-of-living challenges. The following pages briefly review the themes and suggestions shared at the session.

 <http://va-er.org.uk>
eastrencommunityhub.org.uk

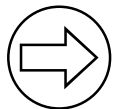
Warm and Welcome Spaces Grant

East Renfrewshire Council is working in partnership with Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust to coordinate and support a community-led response to deliver Warm and Welcome Spaces and activities over the winter period this year.

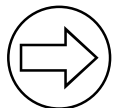
As part of this, the Council will be administering small grants to community organisations to support the set-up and running costs.

Through this Fund, small grants of up to £2,000 are available for community groups that will be open this winter for people to access a Warm and Welcome Space.

These grants can be used to expand capacity, start a new project, or sustain an activity through the coming months. For example, a community centre may apply to cover the costs of providing a designated space with chairs and hot drinks, open at regular times each week.



www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/warm-and-welcome-spaces



[The Directory of Warm and Welcome Spaces](#)

How might the funding be utilised

Here are some examples of ideas discussed:

- **Upskilling**

Provide spaces for people to learn how to cook on a budget, repair and recycle household items and clothing, be more energy efficient/sustainable, grow their own food, digital training.

- **Volunteer Development**

Provide volunteer opportunities which ensure people feel included and are participating in their community rather than just receiving support.

A place where volunteers can also be out of their house in a Warm & Welcoming space whilst benefiting others such as befriending or helping out at a club etc.

An activity that recognises their value that may also provide them with a new skill, such as food hygiene or first aid.

- **Developing Spaces**

How can you maximise the use of your space? For example, if you have two rooms and one is currently used for a let, would you think about using the other room for a Warm & Welcoming space activity? This could make better use of heating, lighting and staffing costs.

In your area/location, are there two services currently running in separate premises on the same night? Could these services share the premises to maximise cost savings on heating, lighting and staffing?

Communication and Collaboration

This is, by far, the most highlighted theme from the event. There are two pathways of communication which are:

1. Organisations and Groups:

- Share what, when and where they provide activities and support.
- Share best practices and ideas
- Gain/give advice and solutions
- Ability to signpost residents to the correct services
- Regular Network meetings
- Joint Marketing

2. The Local Community

- The ability to easily access information about what is on in their area and where they can access support
- Dignity in attending “Warm and Welcome Spaces”
- Activities tailored to meet the needs across all ages in the community



The organisations who attended the event understood the need to work collaboratively, to share information, resources and learning, and to work in partnership where appropriate.

Recommendation: Set up a Places and Spaces Network to allow people to communicate their ideas, share spaces and resources and ask for help amongst the group.

The above list of ideas is not exhaustive, and the fund is open to suggestions.

Community Directory

The Community Directory is a live document accessible to everyone who is online. In order for the directory to work, it has to have up-to-date information, this requires participation from all involved. Here is a link to add in your activity or cost of living support information.



www.eastrencommunityhub.org.uk/add-listing

We also encourage all organisations/groups/clubs to advertise through posters, community magazines/newspapers and word of mouth.

Next Steps

There are three action points:

1. If you require any further discussion about building capacity, funding or volunteer recruitment, please contact **claire@va-er.org.uk**, who will put you in touch with the relevant team members.
2. Please add your place or space, cost-of-living support, and current clubs and activities to the Community Directory
3. Come back together to share updates on:
 - How things are going
 - What and where funding has been spent
 - A gap analysis when we know more about where we have warm and welcoming spaces and where there are gaps either geographical or day/time?