

Supporting Community Action Fund - Round 9 Community Warm Spaces Fund

Impact Report 2025 - 2026



Hook Community Forum
Hook Community Warm Spaces Project

Fund delivered by
Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services
in collaboration with key partners & colleagues
from Pembrokeshire County Council
with funding from Welsh Government



Report Sections:

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1. Project Detail and Context

The **Supporting Community Action Fund (SCAF)** is a fund mechanism developed and managed by Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) to distribute a few combined funding sources to the sector in Pembrokeshire.

This report covers SCAF Round 9 delivery in 2025/ 26, launched in July 2025 and managed by PAVS, in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council, delivering Welsh Government funding to support groups addressing local need.

➤ Round 9 – Community Warm Spaces Fund

Round 9 combined the Welsh Government Warm Hubs funding (£70,635.60) Welsh Government's Regional Integration Fund (RIF); Strong Communities programme 25/26 (£24,966), Underspend of WG Warm Hubs funding 24/25 (£17,739.53), Small Grants for Carers Small Groups 25/26 (£15,750), Learning Disabilities Fund underspend (£5,686) giving a total grant pot of **£134,777.13**.

These funding sources had similar priorities and a focus on revenue delivery meaning they were suited to distribution through this combined fund mechanism.

Round 9 provided up to 100% of project revenue costs (may include minor items of equipment relating to the overall project, up to 10% of the grant request) **to a maximum value of £3,500 for eligible activity.**

Community Warm Spaces Fund themes: –

Projects were invited with the following priorities:

- Addressing disadvantage, loneliness & social isolation** e.g. enabling people to connect with each other & participate in community-based activities and provision of food/ refreshments
- Providing a Warm Community Space** bringing people together for information, support and advice e.g. providing activities & food
- Supporting unpaid carers** e.g. ways to help unpaid carers take a break, ensuring unpaid carers can access information & support they need and provision of food/ refreshments
- Improving mental & physical health and wellbeing** e.g. using green spaces to improve wellbeing, increasing range of green prescribing opportunities, exercise & dance classes

Please note projects demonstrating how they address disadvantage will be prioritised

Extract from Application Pack

Earlier SCAF rounds focused on helping groups respond to the challenges of COVID-19, moving on to support the post-covid recovery and revival before offering funds to support those facing the cost-of-living crisis.

The more recent focus for SCAF rounds has been on supporting projects providing warm and welcoming community spaces, from Round 7, into Round 8 and continuing in Round 9. Most projects offered a combination of activities and food to encourage attendance and benefit from the Warm Community spaces. Projects aligned with priorities of the Food Poverty Agenda.

Oversight

The multi-agency Keep Warm, Keep Well Steering Group continues to meet and make key decisions on the use of funding to support people with cost-of-living crisis in Pembrokeshire. The group is facilitated and chaired by PAVS, and reports to the Pembrokeshire PSB's Poverty Officer Working Group which includes key decisions makers from the Local Authority, Health Board and voluntary sector.

2. Scheme Promotion and Uptake

Application packs were distributed to previous applicants, through PAVS funding news sources and in response to direct requests. Packs were made available to download from PAVS' Funding Advice Service Padlet and the PAVS website.

The fund was promoted via PAVS' Funding Advice Service Padlet, the Funding Wales funding search facility, PAVS' website, social media presence, newsletters and various networks such as the Community Buildings Forum. PAVS also used the Local Authority list of Town and Community Councils to ensure eligible applicants were aware of the fund.

PAVS completed eligibility checks on all applications received, ensuring applicants met fund requirements regards organisational structure, bank account, permissions, and the level of detail on the application form.

Applications were assessed by a multi-agency panel, with representatives of Pembrokeshire County Council's Commissioning Team and Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services drawing on their valuable community knowledge. The Panel Meeting was held on **25th September 2025**. The high volume of strong applications led to some part-fund awards to support a greater number of projects.

At the Panel Meeting, requests for projects where unpaid carers and people with learning disabilities would benefit, with specific fund allocations, were considered. Applicants for Warm Space projects, were prioritised according to those with;

- a) wider community venues
- b) volunteer-led delivery
- c) food provision included

Consideration was also given to geographic coverage of projects supported across the county. Lower priority was given to staff costs and those blending more commercial delivery.

Successful SCAF 9 applicants had a potential 6-month delivery window to 31st March 2026, giving projects nearly a whole extra month of delivery compared to Round 8. The level of submissions received represented an incredible amount of work and commitment from the sector. The applications received and the post-delivery feedback clearly demonstrate evidenced need for this fund. Most applying were entirely volunteer run organisations and showed an incredible volunteer input from inception.

A track record of existing delivery through previous rounds meant that demand for this funding and project achievements remained high.

The work completed by PAVS to process applications and take them to the assessment panel was significant.

SCAF ROUND 9 - SUMMARY

63 applications submitted requesting £194,721.10

48 projects awarded £134,777.13

£114,595.53 awarded to 44 projects at panel meeting
Further £20,181.60 awarded to 24 groups on panel shortlist
20 received additional amounts
4 new groups supported

15 unsuccessful funding requests

Comparisons between Round 8 & 9

Statements in bold text relate to Round 9

One extra month of delivery, due to earlier funding confirmation

Increase in funds awarded – £134,777.13

(Rd 8 - 43 projects awarded £112,329.31)

Slight increase in no. of groups supported – 48

(Rd 8 – 43 groups supported)

Higher rate of funds confirmed initially – £114,595.53

(Rd 8 £79,650.00 confirmed initially, before a further £33,679)

Rd 9 an additional amount of £20,181.60 made available
In preparation for this potential shortlist was outlined at panel meeting

Increased no. of applications submitted - 63

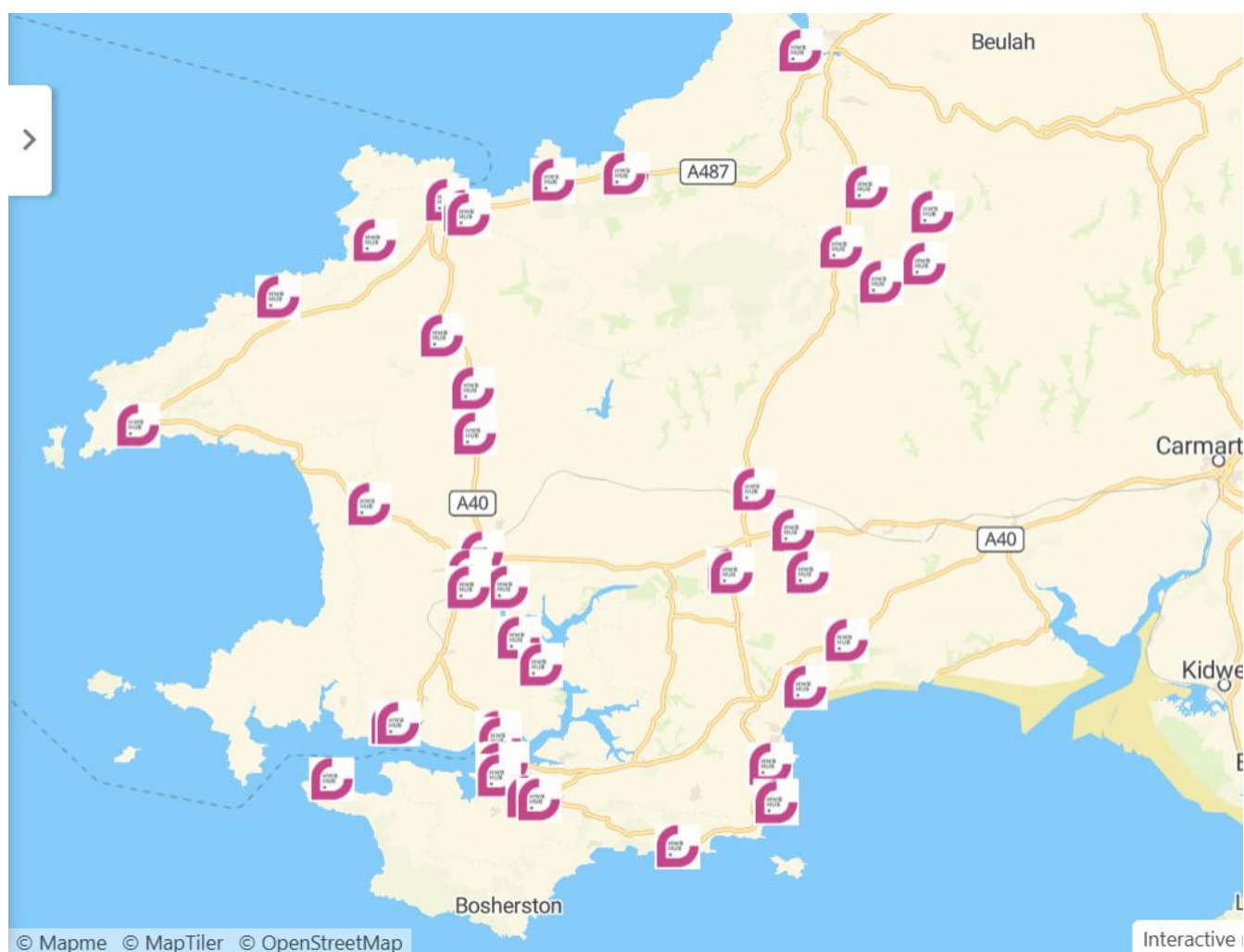
(Rd 8 – 55 applications submitted)

Funded Projects List - SCAF Round 9 - Warm Community Spaces Fund

Ref No:	Name of group	Project Summary
SCAF9-02	ASD Family Help	10 x sessions Jan - March to bring those who have a connection (parents/carers, young people and adults) to the Autism, ALN and Neurodiversity community together in a safe warm place. Majority staff costs, venue hire, vol exp, refreshments & craft
SCAF9-03	Clynderwen Community Hall	12 x fortnightly sessions to provide a Warm Room at Clynderwen Community Hall, October - March, venue, food, craft materials, vol expenses, marketing & equipment
SCAF9-04	Fishguard and Goodwick YPT	Safe, warm, and welcoming space for young people throughout the colder autumn and winter months providing free hot meals - utilities, insurance, rent
SCAF9-05	Hook Community Forum	To provide 28 x warm room sessions (Sept - March) at Hook Sports Association, to include a hot meal& activities. Venue hire, food, vol expenses
SCAF9-06	Martletwy Community Council	6 x Activity sessions for all ages in Lawrenny Hall over 6 months during the winter. Venue hire, food, vol expenses, items for events
SCAF9-07	Pater Hall Community Trust	To run warm rooms (Oct - March) at Hall providing free food & drinks. Funding for food, energy & expenses.
SCAF9-08	Foundry House Community Centre	To provide 50 x Warm Rooms at Foundry House. (2 per wk Oct - March) Venue hire, utilities, sundries, craft & iPad
SCAF9-09	Pembroke Dock Heritage Trust	Meeting space open 2 days/week for 13 weeks (Nov - March) when centre is closed for community group use.
SCAF9-10	Pembs Young Onset Dementia Group	To hold 28-day service sessions (10-3) for people living with young onset dementia, providing respite for carers. Hire of venue.
SCAF9-11	St Davids City Council	Vol led 78 x Drop In Sessions (5hrs x 3 per week) to provide a warm, welcoming community space. Hot meal, drinks & activities.
SCAF9-12	St Patricks Community Hall	To provide 21 x 3-hour weekly volunteer led sessions Nov - March at hall for anybody needing help, a hot meal in a warm, space.
SCAF9-13	Newport Memorial Hall	15 x Weekly sessions to offer a simple hot meal and a movie in a warm, safe environment in the main hall. Focus on Dementia & their carers, signposting to services. Funding for food, utilities, hall hire film licence, marketing, staff time contribution.
SCAF9-16	Simpson Cross Activities Group	Winter warm spaces to expand social activities & gatherings, develop more workshops and events over the project period. Funding for gas & electricity, service cooker and refreshments.
SCAF9-18	Tenby Connects	To ensure that the Old Chapel Community Café is able to stay open and support the community through another winter
SCAF9-20	Lampeter Velfrey Comm. Association	Various weekly and monthly activities over the winter months.
SCAF9-21	Wolfscastle Community Council	12 x monthly coffee & chat groups in Wolfscastle & Treffgarne.
SCAF9-22	The Friday Venue	To run a Community Café for 17 weeks and a Knit & Natter group for 23 weeks.
SCAF9-24	The Tenby Project	24 x Sessions to support vulnerable adults in the community to help run a coffee morning – warm room on a weekly basis.
SCAF9-25	Narberth & District Community & Sports Association	To provide free winter room hire (12hrs) at Bloomfield for groups, particularly to those working with people with disabilities, carers, older people and women and girls.
SCAF9-26	St Davids Befrienders	26 x weekly activities held at the Peoples Shed St Davids.
SCAF9-28	Cyngor Cymuned Clydau	To deliver "Clydau Community Connections" - addressing rural isolation through accessible, diverse social activities.

SCAF9-29	South Ridgeway Comm Association	To run warm room sessions on a Friday lunchtime for 3 hours through January, February & March.
SCAF9-30	Llanteg Village Hall	To maintain a warm space for all existing user groups throughout the next winter plus hold 4 x extra events.
SCAF9-31	Deer Park Baptist Church	To provide between 20 and 24 warm room sessions, including a Christmas meal.
SCAF9-33	St Johns Comm. Hall	To deliver 50 x Warm room sessions and Christmas dinner.
SCAF9-36	Phoenix Community Centre	To cover the additional heating costs we will incur by extending our opening hours to existing and new groups/users of the Centre.
SCAF9-37	Neyland CIC	To run 'Warm Wednesdays' - an afternoon where the Community Hub Lounge Bar will be open to offer a free, warm and welcoming space for anyone in need, plus a hot meal will be offered monthly.
SCAF9-39	Jig-So Children's Centre	To provide families with a warm, safe and inclusive environment with access to hot and cold healthy food with activities and both the ingredients and skills to replicate these foods at home.
SCAF9-41	Amroth and District Comm. Association	To provide 19 x warm room sessions including craft and film sessions and provision for Xmas.
SCAF9-44	Queens Hall	To provide 6 x Community get-togethers at Queens Hall Narberth
SCAF9-46	ACTS West Wales	To fund weekly warm room sessions in three locations across the county, providing food, warmth and companionship.
SCAF9-47	Monkton Priory Church	To contribute toward existing activities at the Hall, including coffee and chat sessions and parent & toddler groups.
SCAF9-48	Merched y Wawr Penfro	Crafting and socialising project to address loneliness and isolation
SCAF9-49	Llanrhian Community Council	Warm rooms activities inc food & other agencies, inc. expanded provision (3 halls)
SCAF9-50	Hope Pembrokeshire	Warm Space in Neyland & launch of space in Fishguard; refreshments & utilities - range of activities provided
SCAF9-51	CPD Crymych Cyf	Crymych Hub Warm Room project fortnightly sessions with food and activity inc walks
SCAF9-52	Nantucket CIO	Community Reach project, expand current offer with more sessions, activities & food
SCAF9-53	Angle Village Hall	Village Hall Welcome Space project, range of events to increase sense of community and combat loneliness/ isolation
SCAF9-54	Llanddewi Velfrey Village Hall	Sessional Worker to extend / provide warm room activities & build future sustainability
SCAF9-55	Down2Earth Merlins Bridge	Weekend Community Café addressing loneliness, isolation & need - wellbeing sessions with food and talks for community members
SCAF9-56	Milford Youth Matters	Milford Youth Matters Drop In Facility, targeted winter programme
SCAF9-58	Llangwm Village Com Centre	To provide a warm welcome space by supporting costs of weekly community café
SCAF9-59	New Hedges Village Hall	Build on 2022 service & wkly coffee mornings offering food for older, isolated community members inc. monthly entertainment
SCAF9-60	Dinas Wellbeing Hub	Offering meetings, events, classes and lunch to local community
SCAF9-61	Milford Haven Sea Cadets	Heat and Eat project; offering warm space & training access twice monthly warm meal
SCAF9-62	St Vincent de Paul	Weekly Warm space session with food provided
SCAF9-63	Canolfan Hermon	Hermon Community Luncheon Club, providing weekly wellbeing sessions with food
SCAF9-64	Canolfan Bethlehem Cyf	To provide 12 x weekly sessions for warm room drop-in with activities

Map showing location of Community Warm Spaces



Pembrokeshire Community Hub, a key PAVS service, once again acted as the central enquiry point for the Keep Warm, Keep Well programme, managing referrals through to partners and providing information and guidance to the general public.

The Hub continues to facilitate the Warm Spaces Map, through PAVS' ongoing partnership with Connecting Realities, which is hosted on the Community Hub Connect web platform and provides full opening hours, activity information and other details from the groups who developed Warm Spaces in their communities. This offers individuals across the county a place to check information about Warm Space provision in their communities.



Neyland CIC



Hope Pembrokeshire



Queens Hall

Soup & Movie Matinees

TUESDAYS Newport Memorial Hall
 NOV 4th - DEC 16th 2025
 DEC 30th - FEB 24th 2026

JOIN US IN THE MAIN HALL FOR WARM FRIENDLY AFTERNOONS.

WE'LL BE SHOWING A RANGE OF CLASSIC & MODERN MOVIES AS WELL AS SERVING HOT DRINKS AND SOUP.

FREE ENTRY
TEA / COFFEE FREE
SOUP & ROLL £3

SOUP SERVED 12PM
MOVIE STARTS 12:45PM

TURN OVER FOR MOVIE LIST

WWW.NEWPORTMEMORIALHALL.CO.UK

ACCESSIBLE

WELL BEHAVED DOGS WELCOME

Newport Memorial Hall



Jig-So Children's Centre

3. Key Outputs and Beneficiaries

Most groups provided very thorough feedback and reflection on the successes, challenges and learnings from their projects submitting qualitative and financial monitoring forms on completion of projects. The output data provided here is taken from the returned forms.

In the monitoring report all groups reported that their project was a success.

From a PAVS fund management perspective, the chasing up, checking and collating monitoring returns, to be used meaningfully for this report, represented a significant amount of work. This was the first round where PAVS used MS Forms to collect some of the feedback. This improved the process but there were some groups not confident with the technology to complete in this way and others where chasing up was still required.

At Round 9, all projects returned their full evaluation. Two projects were missing one element of their evaluation (i.e. Finance or Qualitative).

Groups not returning full monitoring were notified that this must be returned prior to consideration of applications for future rounds of this fund.

Round 9 Community Warm Spaces Fund Priorities/ Themes

All applicants were asked to show how their projects met at least one of four Fund themes. Most projects met at least two of these themes, with a good number meeting three, of the 48 funded projects, 21 met all four themes.

➤ Addressing Loneliness & Isolation

36 projects told us that they positively impacted on loneliness and isolation.

➤ Providing a Warm Community Space

35 projects told us that they provided a warm community space

➤ Supporting unpaid carers

18 projects told us that they supported unpaid carers.

➤ Improving Mental/Physical health and wellbeing

36 projects told us that they improved mental/ physical health and wellbeing

In Round 9 most funded projects contributed to Providing a Warm Community Space priority offering continuity on from the funding allocated in Round 7 & 8.

3.1 Key Outputs

The following sets out the key outputs achieved by the SCAF-funded projects, as provided in the reports received.

These figures offer a valuable measure of the scale of overall delivery and impact made across the county, whilst reflecting that each project is different and not always comparable. Some include elements of tailoring which make delivery more costly and need a higher ratio of volunteer input.

The overall total no. of people benefitting from activity provided by funded projects was **5,523**.

Total Fund Key Outputs	No People Benefitted	No of Volunteers	Vol hours	Additional Funds	No of Warm Space Sessions Provided	No of Hot Meals	No. of Warm Space sessions attended
Round 9 2025/ 2026	5,523	879	26,656	£50,613.50	2,155	19,834	41,811
Round 8 2024/ 2025	4,266	542	16,733	£18,971.11			21,958

Key Outputs Comparison Round 8 & Round 9 delivery

These figures offer an insight into the volume of activity carried out by funded projects. This included menu planning, shopping, organising of volunteers, coordination of cooking, planning of activities and delivering the sessions themselves.

The data reported shows a **significant increase in key outputs delivered by Round 9 projects** to those reported at Round 8. Round 9 supported 5 more projects than Round 8.

Groups reflected the extent of work enabled in the Warm Community Spaces by recording “Total number of Warm Space sessions attended” showing attendance at multiple sessions, with the total of **41,811** recording every attendance at a community space (no. of people attending sessions *multiplied by* the no. of sessions attended).

The quantitative data must be viewed alongside the individual impact reports to gain a fuller sense of the breadth of benefit.

3.2 Beneficiaries

In line with the Regional Integration Fund priorities contribution to Round 9, applicants explained how projects benefited more vulnerable individuals and ensured delivery was inclusive.

As explained in the Application Guidance;

Applications are particularly encouraged from groups supporting vulnerable individuals including (but not limited to):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Unpaid carers / young carers | • People living with dementia |
| • Older people | • People with physical disabilities |
| • Children and young people | • People with mental health issues |
| • People with learning disabilities | • Gender equality |

Delivery was tailored by funded projects to meet the needs of these beneficiary groups. Here are some of the ways groups achieved this;

- ❖ **Took a proactive and inclusive approach to removing barriers**, ensuring that everyone can take part regardless of age, ability, or circumstance. Activities are designed to be flexible and adaptable, with options such as seated exercises, varied session formats, and a wide range of activities to suit different interests and capabilities.
- ❖ **Accessibility has been a key priority**. Venues are wheelchair accessible, with disabled parking, suitable seating, and additional equipment such as a wheelchair available. Practical measures, including reserved parking, transport support, and volunteer assistance, help those with mobility challenges or limited independence to attend.
- ❖ Provided a **welcoming and supportive environment** through trained staff and volunteers who actively engage participants, offer reassurance, and encourage involvement—particularly for those lacking confidence or experiencing social isolation. Sessions are low-cost or free, with food available by donation, helping to reduce financial barriers.
- ❖ **Made programmes inclusive of diverse groups**, including older people, individuals with learning or physical disabilities, young people and those experiencing loneliness. Specialist considerations such as dietary needs, dementia-friendly adaptations and tailored support ensure individuals feel safe and comfortable.
- ❖ **Social connection is central to work**. Activities such as café sessions, Knit and Knatter, and warm spaces encourage conversation, friendship, and peer support, helping to reduce isolation and build community networks.
- ❖ **Focus on creating accessible, inclusive, and welcoming spaces** where everyone feels valued, supported, and able to participate at their own pace.

These approaches outline ways that projects ensured that they remained inclusive, to enable the projects to best reach these target audiences. This offered learning for delivery and around reducing potential barriers to participation for projects.

Volunteers & Volunteer Hours

879 volunteers were involved in delivering the R9 projects and activities.

The final monitoring reports returned to PAVS reflect an incredible level of volunteer time contributed to projects funded with over 26,656 hours of volunteer time contributed to Round 9 projects.

Every funded project had some volunteer involvement

26,656 hours of volunteer time

contributed to Round 9 projects

Costed at the Real Living Wage hourly rate of £13.45**

Volunteer time contributed equates to £358,523.20

(**[What is the Real Living Wage? | Living Wage Foundation](#)).

The astonishing volunteering figures help to show the value of the volunteer involvement in these projects and reflect the huge efforts, resourceful approaches and value of this impressive volunteer input.

- ❖ Most funded projects were **significantly resourced by volunteers**
- ❖ Volunteers were vital to project delivery

The added value contributed alongside the grants awarded evidences the ability of the third sector to resourcefully “grow” a small grant. Volunteers were an integral part of the delivery, often benefiting from their involvement in these projects but also themselves needing support and co-ordination as part of the project delivery.



Cyngor Cymuned Clydau



Llanddewi Velfrey Village Hall

ASD Family Help



4. Overcoming Challenges

Groups reported on challenges faced in delivering their intended activities and explained some creative responses to these, some which would influence a forward direction for the group beyond the project.

Some of the challenges in delivery projects included;

- ❖ **Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers**

Projects reported challenges in recruiting enough volunteers, particularly younger volunteers and committee members. There was a reliance on older community members, with potential issues of long-term sustainability/ capacity.

- ❖ **Managing Growing Demand and Meeting Diverse Needs**

Some projects experienced higher-than-expected attendance, creating challenges around venue capacity, catering, staffing ratios, age-group suitability, and ensuring activities remained inclusive for people with different backgrounds, interests, and needs.

- ❖ **Practical and Operational Challenges**

Projects faced practical issues including venue unavailability, technology failures, form completion and administration, marketing and communication, accommodating pets safely (including appropriate limits) and adapting layouts or processes to improve participant experience.

- ❖ **Generating and Maintaining Participation**

Several projects struggled initially to attract participants, build awareness, and maintain engagement, particularly during winter months or when introducing new activities. Some events experienced lower attendance than anticipated.

- ❖ **Transport and Accessibility Barriers**

Lack of transport was a significant barrier for older and less mobile participants, many of whom relied on family, carers, community transport, or volunteer support to attend activities.

- ❖ **Staffing Capacity, Illness and Resource Constraints**

Staff shortages, volunteer availability, winter illnesses and competing demands on limited resources sometimes affected delivery, leading to cancellations, reduced capacity, or pressure on existing teams.

- ❖ **Funding and Project Timescale Pressures**

Delayed grant starts (for some when second tranche of funds became available), funding shortfalls and compressed delivery timescales meant some organisations had to deliver activities in a shorter period than planned or use their own resources to cover gaps. One project also planned more events than it was ultimately able to deliver.

Groups arrived at solutions to issues often reframing the challenges as opportunities to adjust projects to better deliver planned activity through adaptability, flexible planning and creative problem-solving. There was significant learning for many of the funded projects leading to greater confidence and learning for future delivery.



**Canolfan
Bethlehem Cyf**



**Down2Earth
Merlins Bridge**



CPD Crymych Cyf



**Amroth and District
Community Association**



5. Key Achievements, Differences Made and Special Moments

Funded organisations shared feedback the key project achievements and differences made by the projects delivered.

Key Achievements

- Established **new and sustainable community activities**, including weekly user groups, community cafés, lunch clubs, chair yoga, inclusive dance classes, support groups, choirs and children's activities.
- Provided **warm, safe and welcoming spaces** that remained accessible throughout the winter, supporting hundreds of residents and enabling vulnerable people to stay connected.
- Delivered **significant practical support**, including **free meals for young people**, affordable community meals, refreshments and food provision across multiple locations.
- Successfully **engaged a wide range of community members**, including older people, carers, families, young people, individuals experiencing isolation, people with disabilities, those facing mental health challenges and people experiencing homelessness.
- **Increased participation** across many projects, attracting new residents, expanding age ranges, growing volunteer teams and establishing new community services.
- **Strengthened partnerships** with local organisations, businesses and statutory services, leading to additional opportunities such as training, advice sessions, digital inclusion support and fraud awareness workshops.
- **Supported the development of community assets**, including village halls, community centres, a community-owned pub and a former chapel being transformed into a community cultural hub.
- **Secured additional funding** and **established strong foundations** for future delivery, ensuring services can continue beyond the life of the grant.

The following summarises feedback on the **difference made** by projects delivered and includes a sample of quotes from project beneficiaries explaining these differences in their own words. All completed monitoring reports containing further special moments from project beneficiaries are held by PAVS.

Reduced Isolation and Improved Wellbeing

- The most frequently reported outcome was a significant reduction in loneliness and social isolation.
- Participants developed new friendships, built support networks and gained confidence through regular social interaction.
- Many attendees described projects as a vital part of their week and reported improvements in their emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging.

"I came for company, warm room, soup and the movie."

"It has really brought the community together and helped make the long winter days shorter."

"Warm Spaces activities this winter have been absolutely brilliant... The hosts have been so welcoming and helpful, working hard to give us all a memorable time."

"There was a vibrant sense of joyous togetherness and warmth – both literal and metaphorical."

"The event really touched me, because it clearly made a real, immediate, positive difference to everyone in the room."

Case Study; *A gentleman who returned to the group after experiencing a life-threatening illness that resulted in several months in hospital. Having been away from his community for an extended period, he found the sessions provided a sense of normality and a gentle route back into everyday life. Through attending regularly, he reconnected with familiar faces, met new people and rebuilt his confidence. He expressed deep gratitude for the support received and now regularly attends Coffee & Cake sessions and Lunch Clubs throughout the year.*

Stronger Community Connections

- Communities became more connected through regular opportunities to meet, share meals, participate in activities and support one another.
- Participants increasingly moved from being beneficiaries to active contributors through volunteering, donating food, organising activities and supporting fellow attendees.
- Intergenerational activities successfully brought together people of different ages and backgrounds.

"We met a number of lovely locals and cannot wait until the next event."

"It has really brought the community together and helped make the long winter days shorter."

"Warm Space has been so helpful and supportive... I have made such a wonderful new friend."

Case Study; *What began as a regular bingo session evolved into something much bigger. Participants developed friendships beyond the sessions, to the extent that attendees organised a "Mystery Destination" coach trip together and began planning additional social activities. Regular attendees also made a conscious effort to invite people living alone to join them, helping to extend the reach of the project to those*

most at risk of isolation. Following the death of a much-loved participant, the group came together to organise a special bingo event in her memory.

Improved Community Capacity

- Volunteer involvement increased, improving community ownership, local resilience and the ability of organisations to continue delivering services.
- Stronger systems, communication, partnership working and community engagement practices have left organisations better equipped for future delivery.

"Whilst most people came with another person, there were several who came alone. On those occasions our volunteers were encouraged to talk to them... on two occasions they signed up as volunteers as they saw the fun and friendly nature we all worked together."

"The digital advice was of great help & I was very pleased to be able to have an advisor who could speak Welsh, my first language."

"Another user has become a volunteer and helped with many maintenance tasks... and has become a very positive contributor to sessions."

"The representative from UW was able to reduce household bills for 5 people attending the project making a valuable saving to their outgoings."

Case Study; *One attendee who had previously struggled with addiction began attending sessions to access support and social contact. Over time, he became increasingly involved in the life of the project and went on to become a volunteer, helping with a range of maintenance tasks. He has remained substance-free and is now regarded as a valued and positive contributor to Centre activities. His journey demonstrates how community projects can build individual confidence and skills while increasing the capacity of local organisations through volunteer involvement.*

Increased Inclusion and Accessibility

- Projects successfully engaged individuals who are often underrepresented or isolated, including people living with dementia, disabilities, poor mental health, carers, homeless people and those new to their communities.
- A welcoming, non-judgemental approach helped ensure everyone felt included and valued.

"Friendly, very helpful, always willing to answer everything - have really enjoyed coming every week. All of the staff and volunteers are so welcoming and helpful."

"Lovely way to connect with others in a similar situation to myself."

Case Study; *A woman living with dementia began attending Warm Space sessions feeling uncertain and lacking confidence. Through the welcoming and supportive nature of the group, she gradually became more comfortable and began recognising familiar faces. She formed friendships with regular attendees, who naturally started looking out for her and offering support. The sessions became an important part of her routine, providing familiarity, reassurance and a sense of belonging. As a result, she experienced reduced isolation while maintaining meaningful social connections in a safe and accessible environment.*

Practical Support During Cost-of-Living Pressures

- Warm spaces provided access to heating, food, drinks, practical advice and trusted support at a time when many households were experiencing financial hardship.
- Young people and families particularly benefited from access to free meals and safe places to spend time outside the home.

Case Study; *One family described how the project's food support made a significant difference during a period of financial difficulty. For this family, the support provided more than a meal; it reduced financial pressure, ensured access to nutritious food, and helped them through a particularly challenging period. Similar feedback was received from others who reported that free meals, warm spaces and practical advice helped them manage rising living costs.*

"The frozen meals were amazing and delicious, myself and my family really enjoyed it. We didn't have much money for a home cooked meal, so the food was massively appreciated. Thank you so much."

"Very helpful as money was tight that month. Thank-you very much."

A place to get warm." "Not freeze outside." "It was warmer than at home."

"Hanging out with friends in warm rather than outside in the cold."

The differences made reflect a strong commitment to **inclusion, wellbeing, sustainability, and community voice**, with clear evidence of **positive social impact** and scalable models for future work.

6. Future Delivery

Funded projects detailed the following potential **key impacts and learnings for future delivery**;

Key Impacts;

- **Increased community wellbeing and reduced isolation:** Warm spaces, community cafés, lunch clubs and social activities provided valuable opportunities for people to connect, particularly for older residents, isolated individuals and those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
- **Improved access through affordable provision:** Funding enabled groups to keep costs low, provide free or subsidised food and refreshments, and offer special events and activities that would otherwise not have been possible.
- **Strengthened organisational sustainability:** Organisations reported that funding improved financial stability, reduced pressure on volunteers, supported village halls/ community facilities and helped secure future services.
- **Enhanced community engagement:** Projects brought people together, increased attendance, boosted confidence, fostered new friendships, and strengthened community cohesion.
- **Expanded activities and resources:** Funding allowed groups to trial new approaches, purchase equipment and resources, outsource some services where appropriate, and deliver a broader range of activities.
- **Volunteer support and capacity building:** Funding eased the burden on volunteers, improved morale, and enabled staff and volunteers to focus more on supporting participants rather than managing operational pressures.

Key Learning for Future Delivery;

- **Food and social connection work best together:** Combining practical support such as food, warmth and activities with social interaction was consistently identified as an effective model for improving wellbeing.
- **Smaller, regular activities often have the greatest impact:** Several groups found that frequent, local and informal activities were more popular and accessible than larger one-off events.
- **Targeted marketing is essential:** Not all residents engage online, highlighting the importance of using multiple communication methods including posters, newsletters, community websites and word of mouth.
- **Need to engage underrepresented groups:** Many organisations identified young people, particularly secondary school-aged children, as a key group for future development and tailored activities.

- **Partnership working adds value:** Collaborating with local businesses, community organisations and service providers increased reach, strengthened local networks and improved service delivery.
- **Planning and flexibility are important:** Projects highlighted the need for stronger contingency planning, communication, stock management and volunteer coordination to respond to changing demand.
- **Continuous feedback improves services:** Participant feedback helped organisations refine activities, identify unmet needs and shape future provision.
- **Sustainable community-led models are effective:** The funding demonstrated that community-driven approaches, supported by volunteers and local partnerships, can create lasting benefits and establish strong foundations for future services.

6. Conclusions

Round 9 of the Supporting Community Action Fund showcased strong engagement from the third sector, with many grass-roots volunteer-run groups applying for funding to address community needs. For a number of organisations, a Warm Space provision has become an embedded community activity, with the continuity offered through SCAF Rounds 7, 8 & 9. Year on year, the reach, volunteer contribution and community impact of these projects have grown. The Fund had a significant impact across Pembrokeshire, supporting a wide range of projects addressing winter pressures and cost-of-living challenges, with lasting benefits for individuals and communities.

Comparisons with Round 8 delivery show a significant increase in number of people being reached, number of sessions and volunteer input to Round 9 projects.

The high volume of applications reflected continued demand for this funding alongside the commitment of community organisations to deliver impactful projects.

PAVS' Third Sector Support Team brings significant value to this Fund, building capacity of less experienced groups, supporting the development of groups and providing an accessible application process. PAVS also collates monitoring returns from projects and writes this Impact Report to show the Fund benefit.

Continuity and managing community expectation are important considerations moving forward. Groups are keen to build on delivery experience and consolidate what they are providing.

This report highlights how effective locally administered, flexible small grants are in reaching the heart of community need. The Supporting Community Action Fund is well positioned as a valuable mechanism for future funding initiatives.

As this Fund Impact Report was completed, PAVS was pleased to receive confirmation of a further round of SCAF funding for 2026 – 27 Autumn/ Winter delivery. Details to be shared on the [PAVS website](#).

Report Author: Lorna Livock, PAVS Senior Funding Development Officer
June 2026

(Fund paperwork available on request from PAVS, including
Application Form, Guidance Notes & Monitoring Forms)

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