

Supporting Community Action Fund - Round 9

Community Warm Spaces Fund Summary 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



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❖ Overview

- **Supporting Community Action Fund (SCAF)** is managed by **PAVS** and delivered in partnership with **Pembrokeshire County Council**, using **Welsh Government funding**.
- **SCAF Round 9 Community Warm Spaces Fund**, launched in August 2025, met the following priorities:
 - **Loneliness & Isolation**
 - Projects positively impacted on loneliness and isolation
 - **Providing a Warm Community Space**
 - Projects provided a warm community space
 - **Supporting unpaid carers**
 - Projects supported unpaid carers
 - **Improving Mental/Physical health and wellbeing**
 - Projects improved mental/ physical health and wellbeing
- Total funding distributed: **£134,777.13** to **48 projects**
- **£194,721.10** of funding requested by **63 applications**

❖ Funding and Promotion

- Funds included: Welsh Government Warm Hubs, **Safe and Warm Spaces 25/26** 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)

- Grants up to **£3,500** for revenue costs
- Promoted via websites, social media, newsletters, forums and outreach
- Open and inclusive advertised application process with clear guidance

❖ **Project Delivery Outputs**

- **5,523 people** benefitted
- **879 volunteers**, contributing **26,656 hours**
- **Volunteer time** valued at **£358,523.20**, costed at the Real Living Wage hourly rate of £13.45
- **£50,613.50** in additional funds contributed to projects
- **2,155 warm space sessions**
- **19,834 hot meals served**
- **41,811 session attendances** (including some repeat attendees)

Figures show the **extent of the volunteer involvement** and quantify the huge efforts and value of this impressive volunteer input. Most funded projects were significantly resourced by volunteers and volunteers were vital to project delivery.

❖ **Beneficiary Focus**

Projects supported:

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

And prioritised:

- **Providing a welcoming and supportive environment through trained staff and volunteers who actively engage participants**
- **Creating accessible, inclusive and welcoming spaces**
- **Removing any barriers to physical accessibility**
- **Taking a proactive and inclusive approach to identifying and removing other barriers to participation**
- **Making programmes inclusive of diverse groups**
- **Ensuring social connection was central to work**

❖ Special Moments

Positive impacts shared by projects & beneficiaries:

"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."

"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."

"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."

"... 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 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."

"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."



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

WELL BEHAVED DOGS WELCOME

Newport Memorial Hall



Jig-So Children's Centre

Key Challenges for Funded Projects

- **Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers;** recruiting enough volunteers, particularly younger volunteers/ committee members. Reliance on older community members & issues of sustainability/ capacity.
- **Managing Growing Demand and Meeting Diverse Needs;** venue capacity, catering, staffing ratios, age-group suitability and ensuring activities inclusive in response to interests/ needs.
- **Practical and Operational Challenges;** practical issues including venue unavailability, technology, admin, marketing, adapting layouts etc.
- **Generating and Maintaining Participation;** some challenges with initial momentum and maintaining engagement. In winter months & with new activities. Occasional lower attendance than anticipated.
- **Transport and Accessibility Barriers;** Lack of transport was a significant barrier for older / less mobile participants, relying on family, carers, community transport or volunteers to attend activities.
- **Staffing Capacity and Resource Constraints;** Personnel availability, winter illnesses and competing demands impacted some delivery, some cancellation/ less capacity/ added pressure on teams.
- **Funding and Project Timescale Pressures;** some had a delayed start due to further funds being released resulting in a shorter delivery timescale for a few projects. Some need to use own resources to cover gaps. One project also planned more events than it could deliver.

Groups responded to challenges creatively by adapting plans and delivery.

❖ Key Achievements & Differences Made

Key Achievements included;

- **New and sustainable community activities in warm, safe and welcoming spaces** accessible throughout the winter, supporting hundreds of residents and reaching vulnerable people
- **Practical support**, including **free/ affordable community meals**
- **Engaged wide range of community members** and **increased participation** across many projects
- **Strengthened partnerships** with local organisations, businesses and statutory services, enabling additional opportunities

- **Supported the development of community assets**
- **Secured additional funding & strong foundations** for future delivery

Differences made included;

- **Reduced Isolation and Improved Wellbeing**
- **Stronger Community Connections & Engagement**
- **Improved Community Capacity**
- **Increased Inclusion and Accessibility**
- **Practical Support During Cost-of-Living Pressures**

❖ **Future Planning**

Groups highlighted **learning points** around potential future delivery;

- Food and social connection work best together
- Smaller, regular activities often have the greatest impact
- Targeted marketing is essential
- Consider how best to engage underrepresented groups
- Partnership working adds value
- Planning and flexibility are important
- Continuous feedback improves services
- Sustainable community-led models are effective

❖ **Conclusion**

- Round 9 demonstrated strong community need and engagement
- The fund model proved effective, with **scalable, inclusive delivery** and small accessible grants having a proven and significant local impact
- **Huge value for money and added value** came from supporting activity based on an established volunteer resource and prior delivery
- Further round of funding (2026–27), with a smaller total funding pot, will launch mid-August 2026 **Deadline 28th September 2026 at 12 noon.**

The Fund Application Pack & Full SCAF 9 Fund Impact Report will be available from 14th August on [PAVS Website](#) (opens external webpage).