

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 November 2023

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Lancashire Warm Spaces Grant Scheme

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

Further to Full Council's recent Notice of Motion, this report describes the proposal for provision of warm spaces in Lancashire Libraries and the implementation of a grant scheme to support access to warm spaces in the community, together with an online directory and supporting resources.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the implementation of a warm spaces grant scheme for local organisations, to a total value of £72,000; with a maximum allocation of £500 per application.
- (ii) Approve the utilisation of Lancashire libraries as warm spaces, with a budget allocation of £25,000.

Detail

Further to a discussion of a Notice of Motion, regarding warm spaces at the meeting of Full Council on 12 October 2023, Lancashire County Council resolved that:

- Lancashire County Council recognises the good work of our Lancashire Libraries and community groups last winter in helping to keep our residents warm and well.
- This Council further recognises the success of the support we put in place last winter, including the Lancashire Warm Spaces Grant Scheme, our Lancashire Warm Spaces online directory and supportive resources and the dedicated cost of living support, activities and warm refreshments offered across our 64 Lancashire Libraries.
- This Council welcomes the new Cost of Living Fund established by the Government to fund work by organisations supporting low-income households.
- To complement this new fund, this council resolves to establish a Warm and Welcome Places Grants Scheme for 2023/24 to support community organisations to provide Warm and Welcome spaces across the county in the winter period, with detailed criteria to be approved by Cabinet.
- Further, this council resolves to continue to promote a Warm and Welcome offer from our Lancashire Libraries and to continue to promote our Lancashire Warm Spaces online directory and supportive resources.

This approach to warm and welcome spaces provides one element of a wider strategic, and developing, approach to community wellbeing, supporting the individuals and communities of Lancashire.

Lancashire Warm Spaces

It is proposed to deliver a grant scheme to support access to warm spaces in the community, to a total value of £72,000 during 2023/24.

Further to advice, feedback and reviewing the administration of last year's scheme, it is proposed:

- A maximum of £500 available for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector organisations (including parish and town councils) to set up / maintain a warm space project.
- A minimum expectation that every project should be:
 - Warm
 - Welcoming
 - Free to access
- Up to four funding rounds for receipt of applications, until spring 2024, according to demand and availability of funding.
- A 'light-touch' application process with a clearly defined eligibility criteria.

Online Directory:

- A secure and easy-to-use registration process for organisations
- A publicly available and user-friendly interactive map of all registered warm spaces available to access across Lancashire



Supportive Resources:

- A Lancashire Warm Spaces Charter, setting out supportive values, beliefs, and behaviours
- A dedicated mailbox
- An information e-pack to help registered organisations to set up/improve a warm space project
- Promotional materials for registered organisations, including social media assets and printable posters

Lancashire Libraries:

- It is proposed that a budget allocation of £25,000 is made available to support Lancashire libraries as warm spaces:
- Provision of a warm drink offer across all Lancashire libraries
- Targeted cost-of-living support and information

Officers will work to ensure that the warm spaces programme of support is equitable in access and delivery. It is proposed that the following opportunities be explored:

- A Lancashire-wide communications plan, targeting those residents that would benefit most from accessing support, including a warm spaces offer
- Support for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector organisations to attract and maintain volunteers
- The sharing of best practice amongst the network of registered warm spaces
- Linking in with relevant national campaigns

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

The costs of £0.097m will be funded from the public health grants available to the local authority.

List of Background Papers



Paper

Date

Contact/Tel

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

