

Additional note for Report

Offering a Warm Welcome to residents in need

Voluntary organisations and community groups in East Suffolk are invited to apply for funding to become a Warm Welcomes venue, offering residents a warm safe space to socialise this winter. The second round of East Suffolk Council's Warm Welcomes (formerly Warm Rooms) grant applications is now open, following a successful programme last winter. Last year, Warm Rooms operated over the winter months to provide warm, friendly spaces across East Suffolk. This winter, the rooms have been rebranded as Warm Welcomes following feedback from those visiting Warm Rooms and the host venues.

Warm Welcomes provide a safe, warm and welcoming space where members of the community, including people who may be struggling with the cost of heating their homes, can come to meet with others and access information about additional support available in the community.

Grant funding is available for venues wishing to host a Warm Welcome in their community over the winter. Each venue is asked to provide a minimum of 8 hours per week however this can be provided in different ways throughout the week. The funding can be used as a contribution towards energy costs, refreshments, food, activities and the purchase or hire of resources such as craft materials.

Applications close on Friday 22 September and all applications will be considered by a panel. All Warm Welcomes must be ready to open from 30 October and remain available until 1 April 2024. Once confirmed, a list of all the Warm Welcomes will be made available online. For full eligibility criteria and to apply, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/warm-welcomes

For any queries about the grant scheme, please email communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

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