

Shared Prosperity Fund:

*Supporting communities to address cost of living and
pandemic recovery*

This proposal is just one part of the SPF...

Places and Communities

- 1. Supporting communities to address cost of living and pandemic recovery*
- 2. Promoting the cultural and visitor economy*

Supporting Local Businesses

- 3. Providing a broad and inclusive 'total business support' offer*
- 4. Stimulating enterprise and growth*
- 5. Accelerating R&D and innovation*

People and Skills

- 6. Building pathways to participation and accessing the benefits of being economically active*
- 7. Promoting a skills-driven green economy*

Purpose and values

The funding available in the revenue part of Places and Communities is £1,084,00 for 2022/23, £722,000 for 2023/24 and £891,000 for 2024/25, totalling £2,697,000.

Government's primary goal of the SPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. For the Places and Communities strand this is expressed as:

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

Timescales & process

SYMCA have agreed for SCC to be the accountable body for this element of SPF.

A draft proposal is ready to go to SYMCA with the hope of gaining agreement in Dec 2022 so that the 2022/23 funding can be drawn down and spent in Jan-March 2023.

This would mean that SYCF fund would be open for organisations to bid into in Jan-March 2023.

Our overall aims

We are aiming to

- Support the supporters – sustaining the VCF organisations that are the first point of entry to people
- Build on the Welcome Places approach
- Reduce demand on short term, emergency support
- Create longer term impact, maximise leverage, focus on transformation

This would build on the cost of living response that SCPB has discussed in the past.

Our methodology to date

This has been developed to build on the existing work around cost of living being developed in the city.

It has been a collaboration between SCC, Voluntary Action Sheffield, Citizens Advice Sheffield and South Yorkshire Community Foundation

It has been checked with wider members of the VCF sector and adapted accordingly

We have recognised that this fund cannot directly address the need for #cashfirst but we can make an impact on immediate need

What are we proposing?

1. **Add funds to the SYCF's Sheffield Cost of Living fund** to increase the spread of its impact. This fund offers funding to Sheffield VCF organisations to support their work mitigating the effects of the cost of living situation.
2. Supporting the additional costs of **keeping community hubs open** throughout the winter to facilitate greater engagement.
3. **Invest in volunteer support to build skills in communities.** Create a Citizens Advice Sheffield volunteer trainer who can train volunteers in local community orgs to provide first line guidance, thus reducing demand on the specialist advisors at CAS and spreading knowledge in local communities.
4. Strategy & Fundraising resource – create a centralised resource to **support organisations experiencing barriers to accessing funding** to develop their organisational strategy and focussed funding strategies and write bids on behalf of organisations who don't have the capacity/skills in order to increase the resilience of those organisations.
5. **Create cost of living link workers and community development workers** in the Local Area Committee localities to provide support to the network of Welcome Places, with a grounding in asset-based working

What outcomes we expect

Address inequalities + sustaining the VCF

Ensure the network of Welcome Places being developed is able to support people through the cost of living crisis. Through this residents will have:

- Better access to information
- Local advice on coping with the cost of living crisis
- Somewhere warm and welcoming to dwell
- Communal activities in their neighbourhood

In the longer term this will build the social infrastructure in neighbourhoods and make it more resilient, enabling communities to thrive