

## SBC Cost of Living support

SBC has agreed a range of measures totalling £1.2m to support communities affected by the cost of living crisis. One of these measures is the creation of the Warm and Well Fund to support voluntary, community and charity organisations to provide a warm space for those struggling to heat their homes during the winter months. Working in partnership with The Bridge and BAVS the intention is to provide a dignified approach to ensuring help reaches communities and individuals who require additional assistance.

In Berwickshire, SBC Warm and Well funding of £18,541 is being distributed through BAVS who also secured match funding of £25,680 from Lottery. Warm and Well spaces who have received funding to date from SBC or Lottery include:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>
Leitholm Village Hall	Warm hub
Coldstream British Legion	Winter lunches
Ayton Resilience Group	Community café and food delivery
Reston Village Hall	Warm Space - Mondays
Chirnside Development group	Warm spaces - Wed soup lunch
Duns Food Bank	Warm spaces - Equipment
St Abbs Hub	Friday lunch
Duns Golf Club	Duns Golf club lunches
Birgham Warm Hub	Community Lunches

## Energy Training

As part of the Cost of Living support, CAB and BAVS organised and delivered an energy information session to help community volunteers and staff have supportive energy conversations with people who are using the warm spaces or who are accessing community services. The training provides information on the financial sources available to heat homes and how to signpost / refer people for assistance. Budget is available to support energy training across the Borders so additional sessions can be offered to those who are interested.

## Anti-Poverty Strategy – Cost of Living Support

Approved by Council on 25 August 2022

<b>Additional Support Package</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>
<b>Energy &amp; Debt Advice:</b>	
Extend existing arrangements with organisations such as CAB, Changeworks etc. to provide additional resources to assist with referrals, energy advice, money advice, signposting and budgeting.	£0.150m
<b>Direct Payment Awards:</b>	
Warm clothing payment of £100 to each child entitled to either Free School Meals or Clothing Grants (approx. 2350 children)	£0.235m
Top up Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) funding	£0.050m
Further top up of Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) payments	£0.100m
<b>Increased take up support:</b>	
Additional resources to be used to support & process increased take up of benefits	£0.050m
<b>Total for immediate allocation</b>	<b>£0.585m</b>
<b>Balance to enable further targeted support in response to need and demand</b>	<b>£0.615m</b>