



Coordinated Community Support Programme

Swansea is one of four CCS programme pilot areas in Wales and England¹. Principal aims of the programme are to:

- Address the gaps that exist in emergency support provision through better networking of local agencies providing emergency assistance for individuals and families facing financial crisis
- Reduce repeat instances of financial crisis by addressing underlying causes of crises, as well as the immediate emergency

Background

Centrally funded UK Government Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants were devolved in 2013. Since that time, the Welsh Government's Discretionary Assistance Fund has provided Emergency Assistance Payments and Individual Assistance Payments to those in need of emergency financial support. Research by The Children's Society in 2018 found that availability and knowledge of provision varied dramatically across England and Wales, and that navigating systems of support in a locality can be difficult for those in need as well as for agencies seeking to support them. There has been a notable increase in the role of the voluntary sector in the provision of emergency financial support in recent years and the CCS programme was devised to strengthen partnerships between Local Authorities and VCS organisations.

The programme team are working to improve access to Local Welfare Assistance schemes in all pilot sites- the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) in Swansea. We are working with local agencies to raise awareness of the DAF and increase the number of successful applications.

Swansea Year 1 pilot site funding overview

No funding had been distributed in Swansea prior to Covid-19. Since March, the programme has:

-Established a 12- week hardship fund for refugees, asylum seekers and people with NRPF. It's administered by EYST but the fund's steering group consists of other local agencies including the African Community Centre and SASS.

-Worked with Citizen's Advice and the Council to distribute an information leaflet for foodbanks to put in food parcels. The leaflet includes details of how to contact Citizen's Advice and examples of issues they can support with- welfare benefits, debt, Government employment schemes etc.

-Agreed to fund The Wallich to administer 75 starter packs for people leaving the Covid emergency temporary accommodation. The packs contain basic household items like pans, cutlery, towels and toiletries. They are being administered by the Wallich from their ABBA site but, crucially, are accessible to all other agencies supporting those leaving the Covid emergency accommodation.

-Committed to fund Housing Justice Cymru's new Citadel project. Referrals for this project are made via Housing Options. 12 volunteers are providing informal support for 3-6 months to 15 people who have left temporary accommodation as they move into new tenancies.

The CCS Swansea pilot site has £45,000 funding per year available for the remaining two years of the programme. Whilst the Local Authority is a key partner, only the VCS can be in receipt of funds.

¹ CCS programme summary: <https://coordinatedcommunitysupport.org.uk/content/coordinated-crisis-support-programme-proposal>



What Next?

During the last year, the CCS programme has worked in each pilot site to identify financial crisis provision, establish connections and support local coordination. As the programme enters its next phase, organisations represented at the CCS programme partnership meeting on 3rd September are all invited to sign the programme's [local partnership charter](#) on behalf of their organisation. The charter sets out a joint commitment to ensure that people in Swansea are able to access support in times of financial hardship and crisis.

The meeting next week will be an opportunity to consider priorities for the second phase of the programme. Questions to consider include:

- What are the barriers to providing aftercare in your organisation?
- What are the barriers to addressing underlying needs?
- What are the barriers your organisation face to improve access to crisis support?
- What needs to happen to make application process for the DAF and other support simpler and more supported?
- What are the barriers to coordinating emergency financial support provision in Swansea?