

Solihull ‘Support and Prevention’ Fund

Introduction

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council is inviting local community groups and organisations to play a vital role in delivering the Household Support Fund, supported by funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The Solihull Support and Prevention fund’s primary focus is on providing essential help to adult-only households and older residents, aiming not only to prevent and reduce crises during this period but also to ensure access to sustainable, long-term support. By improving resilience and addressing immediate needs, the initiative seeks to enhance the overall quality of life for local residents and promote greater wellbeing within the community.

Fund Aims

Successful projects must meet one of the following priorities:

- 1. Promote social wellbeing and positive mental health, by reducing social isolation and loneliness**
- 2. Support access to healthy and affordable food and meals**
- 3. Promote digital inclusion, and reduce the barriers for people getting online**

1. Social Wellbeing

Loneliness is the emotional experience of feeling alone, while social isolation refers to having limited or no contact with others. Both can deeply affect a person’s mental and physical health. Enhancing social wellbeing involves fostering strong, meaningful relationships, improving personal wellbeing, and helping individuals shift their perspectives toward a more connected life.

Older adults are particularly vulnerable to social isolation due to life changes such as retirement, bereavement, or family members moving away. Additionally, mobility challenges, health conditions, and limited transport options can prevent them from participating in local events or activities.

To tackle these challenges, projects should aim to create opportunities for isolated individuals to connect, encouraging regular and meaningful social interaction, and strengthening community ties. This could include setting up welcoming and accessible community spaces, promoting a sense of belonging, and supporting people in developing resilient and enriching relationships. As a proactive approach, initiatives should also consider what truly matters to the people they aim to support.

We would welcome projects which also target specifically over-represented groups such as Carers, those living with Dementia and those facing financial hardship.

2. Food

Everyone should have the means to access and afford nutritious food to live a healthy life. However, food insecurity remains a real challenge—people may be forced to skip meals, eat less, or rely on low-cost, less nutritious options due to financial constraints or limited access.

Projects addressing this issue should work alongside communities to co-create sustainable solutions. Examples of support might include establishing ‘social supermarkets’ to strengthen local food networks, offering guidance and hands-on support for meal planning and cooking on a budget, and developing community gardens where fresh produce can be grown and shared.

3. Digital Inclusion

Digital exclusion creates a barrier for people to access a wide range of services. Projects will need to help provide opportunities for and incentivise people to get online, consider barriers to access like devices, affordable and accessible internet/data, digital literacy education and skills, technical support and developing confidence and internet safety.

As more services shift online, particularly older adults can be excluded from accessing services, as they lack digital skills, confidence, fear of making mistakes or being scammed and the cost of devices or internet access. They will also benefit from using social media, online banking, online shopping and making online bookings. Projects which offer small group sessions, train volunteers, provide access to devices or resources, or provide ongoing support.

Available Funding

A total funding pot of £100,000 is available through the Household Support Fund (HSF). Organisations can apply for grants of up to £6,000 to support eligible projects.

Dates

This fund will close to new applications on **30th September 2025**, unless all the funding has been allocated prior to this date. Early applications are advised.

All projects must be fully delivered by **Friday 6th March 2026** and your final monitoring report must be returned by **Friday 3rd April 2026**.

Priority Area

Grants are only available for projects which will be located and benefiting households in Solihull. Organisations applying from outside of the area must demonstrate a connection within the borough.

We Will Fund

Please provide a breakdown of costs associated with delivering the activities, such as;

- Venue hire
- Staff costs associated to the project
- Materials and small items of equipment
- Costs of food (if part of project delivery)

- Promotion and marketing
- Volunteer expenses
- Transport costs etc.

Eligibility

You can apply if you meet the following criteria :

- Registered charity
- Constituted Community groups
- Companies Limited by Guarantee with charitable aims
- Community Interest Companies
- Co-operatives - registered Community Benefit Societies and
- registered Industrial and Provident Societies
- Social Enterprises

Additionally, your organisation income level must be equal to or less than £1m, as shown in your most recent annual accounts. Reserves must be in line with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Please note, we are unable to fund the following:

- Individuals or sole traders
- Companies Limited by Shares
- Capital Builds
- Direct replacement of statutory obligations and public funding
- Promotion of religious or political activities
- Groups with significant financial free reserves
- Retrospective grants
- National Charities
- Organisations or charities which are set up solely to promote any particular religion
- Organisations who have indicated poor management of any previous grants or who present poor financial health
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)
- Statutory work in educational institutions
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment for statutory or private healthcare
- General appeals
- Pure sponsorship purposes or funding purely for costs of fund-raising events.
- Schools, Churches, Parish Councils or PTA's unless community benefit is demonstrated

Additional Supporting Information

To be eligible to apply you must be able to provide proof of:

- Your organisation / company has a management committee / board of trustees / board of directors with at least 3 unrelated people as members, a list of those directors will be required showing who has bank authorisation
- A written constitution / articles / set of rules
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records showing your organisation's balance of funds, income and reserves
- A bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two unrelated signatories
- A bank statement from the last 3 months
- Food Hygiene training/certificates, if applicable
- Risk assessments for venues and activities
- Copies of your safeguarding/policy (if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults)
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Quotes for capital items over £300