

Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

Swale Borough Council Grant Offer

Advice Services

1. Overview

Swale Borough Council is inviting applications from voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver poverty-reducing advice services that support residents experiencing financial hardship.

This funding aims to strengthen community-based support, reduce reliance on emergency aid, and build long-term financial resilience, budgeting support, and income maximisation.

Bids to be made up to value of £25,000 for the remainder of Year 1 (June 2026-end March 2027).

2. Purpose and Objectives

The Advice Services CRF Grant will support organisations to:

- Provide holistic, person-centred support to residents experiencing financial hardship.
- Reduce dependency on emergency food and fuel aid by supporting sustainable, dignity-based models.
- Strengthen community resilience through localised, accessible support in areas of highest deprivation.
- Improve pathways to holistic support through crisis access that promote independence and financial capability.
- Enhance collaboration across VCSE, health, and statutory partners to address the root causes of poverty.

3. Scope

Funding is intended to support a range of information and advice services. Options include, but not limited to, the following:

3.1 Financial Resilience & Advice Services

- Early intervention and prevention services to reduce the need for crisis intervention
- Employment or income stability support
- Tailored advice for groups such as young people, older residents, carers, or those with disabilities
- Support to targeted groups using evidence-base eg. Indices of Deprivation
- Holistic support to target a range of requirements such as homelessness, mental health and drug and alcohol support.
- Targeted interventions for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Advice and support to reduce financial pressure.

- Benefit access and income maximisation, including form-filling, advocacy, and follow-up.

3.2 Partnership Development & Sustainability

- Strengthening collaboration between VCSE organisations, health partners, and statutory services.
- Identification of future funding opportunities to sustain poverty-reducing interventions.
- Development of collaborative bids where appropriate.

4. Grant Value

- **Funding period:** remainder of Year 1 – to 31st March 2027
- **Value :** up to £25,000
- **Payment structure:** Two payments (June 2026 and October 2026)

5. Expected Outputs

Successful applicants will be expected to deliver:

- Evidence of holistic support pathways, including referrals to financial, wellbeing, or resilience services.
- Data on resident engagement, including needs and outcomes.
- Evidence of strengthened partnerships and collaborative working.

6. Outcomes

This grant aims to achieve:

- Reduced reliance on emergency food and fuel support.
- Increased household income through benefit uptake and income maximisation.
- Improved financial resilience through budgeting, debt reduction, and savings support.
- Stronger community-based support networks.
- Improved wellbeing and reduced crisis presentations.

7. Eligibility

- Voluntary, community and enterprise organisation based in the Swale District
- Demonstrate experience in poverty reduction, financial resilience, or community support.
- Have a strong track record of partnership working.
- Be able to deliver holistic, multi-agency support.

Collaborative applications are encouraged.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to:

- Provide monthly progress monitoring in line with CRF requirements. This includes capturing data on the following (where applicable):
 - **Access Route (Volume)**
 - Referred from Crisis Support, self-referred, proactive route, TPO referral, other
 - **Resilience building (Number of individuals accessed)**
 - Reduced experiences of material deprivation
 - Reduced need for emergency food parcels
 - Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services
 - Increased savings
 - Reduction in priority debt
 - Maximisation of individuals incomes
 - Decreased need for Crisis Payments
 - Other
 - **Individuals accessing services, demographics (Volume)**
 - Services provided to support children
 - Services provided to support pensioners
 - Services provided to support disabled persons
 - Services provided to support other individuals
 - Services provided to support employed recipients
 - Services provided to support recipients not in employment
 - Services provided to support benefit recipients
 - Services provided to support non-benefit recipients
 - **Community Coordination Initiatives (Volume)**
- Contribute towards two monitoring return documents which includes all monthly data collections and the following additional resilience outcomes evidence:
 - Reduced experiences of material deprivation
 - Reduced need for emergency food parcels
 - Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services
 - Increased savings
 - Reduction in priority debt
 - Maximisation of individuals' incomes
 - Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments
- Attend partnership and monitoring meetings as required

**Please note, not all the above will be relevant depending on the project type. A spreadsheet shared to each successful organisation/project for monthly reporting.*

9. Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- An expression of interest – refer to supporting guidance for more information

10. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be scored and assessed based on:

- Quality and clarity of proposal
- Ability to deliver against the required outcomes and within CRF guidelines
- Strength of partnership approach
- Value for money

11. Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

CrisisAndResilienceFund@swale.gov.uk

Swale Borough Council is committed to fostering collaboration, driving innovation, and creating opportunity across the borough. This grant marks an important first step towards building a stronger, more resilient future for residents.