

Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

Swale Borough Council Grant Offer

One Swale Network

1. Overview

Swale Borough Council is inviting applications from voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to establish and develop a One Swale Network. This initiative will create a coordinated system of community-based access points, delivering holistic and integrated support to residents across the borough within existing community settings.

This initiative aims to develop a minimum of three initial locations (Sheppey, Faversham, and Sittingbourne) utilising existing community facilities to act as a “one front door” for residents. The network will provide accessible, multi-agency support and seamless referral pathways into services that address financial hardship, wellbeing, skills, employment, and wider resilience needs.

Up to **£10,000** is available for the remainder of Year 1 (June 2026-end March 2027) to support the development, coordination and early delivery of the network.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The One Swale Network will:

- Establish three community access points acting as accessible, place-based ‘one front door’ locations.
- Provide standardised, accessible, holistic support enabling residents to access multiple services in one place.
- Strengthen collaboration between VCSE organisations, statutory partners, health services, and community groups.
- Increase awareness and uptake of resilience, wellbeing, financial, and support services.
- Reduce barriers to engagement by delivering services within neighbourhoods, particularly in areas of high deprivation.
- Improve early intervention and prevention outcomes for households experiencing hardship.

3. Scope

Funding is intended to support:

3.1 Network Establishment & Coordination

- Identification and utilisation of existing community venues in Sheppey, Faversham, and Sittingbourne.
- Development of an operating model, including opening hours, staffing/volunteering, and partner presence (in person or virtual).
- Coordination of multi-agency involvement, ensuring a broad and relevant service offer.

Partners may not be required to be physically present at the hubs, but the organisation delivering the Network must ensure that staff and volunteers at each location have the knowledge, skills and confidence to:

- provide accurate information about local services
- explain available support options
- make timely and appropriate referrals
- signpost residents to specialist agencies
- support residents to navigate the wider system

This ensures that each access point functions as a true “one front door”, even when partners are not on site.

3.2 Community Engagement & Resident Access

- Engagement with residents who are digitally excluded, isolated, or disengaged from mainstream services.
- Promotion of the access points through community networks, social media, local venues, and outreach activity.
- Engagement with local venues (e.g., community centres, libraries, GPs, faith settings) to maximise accessibility.

3.3 Partnership Development

- Strengthening relationships with VCSE organisations, health partners, welfare support providers, and community groups.
- Develop opportunities for joint working, shared learning, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Establishing clear referral pathways so that residents can access specialist support even when partners are not physically present at the hubs.
- Ensuring hub staff/volunteers are equipped with up-to-date service information, referral processes, and contact points.

3.4 Monitoring, Data & Insight

- Collection of attendance data, demographic information, presenting needs, and referral outcomes.
- Use of insight to refine access point operations and improve service alignment.
- Contribution to borough-wide understanding of hardship trends and service gaps.

3.5 Sustainability & Development

- Identification of future funding opportunities to offer sustainability
- Development of collaborative bids where appropriate.
- Planning for years 2 and 3, including expansion of locations and services

4. Grant Value

- **Funding period:** Year 1 – to 31st March 2027
- **Value:** £10,000
- **Payment structure:** Two payments (June 2026 and October 2026)

5. Expected Outputs

Successful applicants will be expected to deliver:

- Three operational One Swale Network access sites (Sheppey, Faversham, Sittingbourne).
- A delivery plan informed by IMD data, local intelligence and community need.
- Evidence of multi-agency participation of each network site.
- A summary of resident engagement, including:
 - Attendance numbers
 - Presenting needs
 - Referrals made (where possible)
 - Partner involvement

- Evidence of strengthened partnerships and collaborative working.
- Future planning for Years 2 & 3

6. Outcomes

This grant aims to achieve:

- Improved access to crisis and resilience support for residents in high-need areas.
- Increased engagement from residents who are traditionally underrepresented in service uptake.
- Stronger collaboration across VCSE, health, and statutory partners.
- Reduced barriers to support, particularly for digitally excluded or isolated households.
- Enhanced understanding of community needs through data and insight gathered at the hubs.

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.