

# ANNUAL REPORT

## *Grants to Voluntary Sector Partners*



THE BEST START IN  
LIFE FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE



PEOPLE  
LIVE WELL  
AND AGE  
WELL



STRONG  
RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES



QUALITY HOMES  
IN THRIVING  
NEIGHBOURHOODS



A STRONG AND  
INCLUSIVE  
ECONOMY



A CONNECTED  
AND ACCESSIBLE  
SANDWELL



ONE COUNCIL  
ONE TEAM



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# Foreword



**This is the first annual report that gives an overview of the wide range of grants made by Sandwell Council to voluntary and community groups in 2022/23. The report summarises the activities and support provided to residents as a result of this funding and some of the broad impacts of their work with communities.**



**The council is very proud of its commitment to maintain a programme of investment in Sandwell's voluntary and community sector through grants.**



**Grant funding has helped to build and maintain a strong and stable sector, better able to withstand social and economic changes and continuing to support residents through these changes. Grant funding has helped to stimulate innovation, enabling VCS organisations to take risks and try new ways of working.**

**The key themes of grant funded activity are:**

- **tackling poverty**
- **reducing social isolation**
- **delivering support in and with the community – early help, preventing people from needing statutory services, helping residents to help themselves**
- **best start in life**
- **ageing well**
- **improving health**



# Introduction



The report highlights the significant contributions made by VCS organisations to our residents and the importance of the grant from the council that supports their work. Through these grants voluntary and community organisations have been able to deliver a diverse range of activities, provide crucial services, support those in need and improve the quality of life for many residents.

The [Sandwell Compact](#) and the [Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol](#) set the policy context for our relationships with voluntary and community groups and have helped to foster strong partnerships and a track record of collaboration.

## The context

- **Post covid recovery:** 2022/23 saw the continuing impact of the pandemic on the long term financial resilience of many households. In addition, there has been an adverse impact on the long-term health of many residents, including mental health, with many of our residents experiencing higher levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Community activity has been slow to start up and there was evidence that levels of confidence are low, whilst social isolation is a significant issue.
- **Cost of living crisis:** this has had a very significant impact on most households in Sandwell. For example, there has been a substantial increase in the use of food banks and in the number of families eligible for free school meals. Money worries have had a real impact on residents' mental health as well as on their ability to eat and heat their homes adequately.
- **Review of grants:** the council has had to look very carefully at all of its spending, including its grants budgets. As part of this the council has carried out a comprehensive review of all grants in order to ensure that they were meeting council priorities and delivering good value for money.

## Sources of funding for vcs grants

Grant funding comes from a range of sources, including central government:

Council General Fund

Housing Revenue Account

Public Health

Better Care Fund

New Burdens Fund (Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities?)

Household Support Fund

Dept for Education (HAF)

Homeless Prevention Grant (Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

# Added Value

Grant funding brings about a range of added value to service users and to the wider communities of Sandwell.



**£5,514,181 million**

**Combined external funding levered into the borough by voluntary and community organisations.**



**21 community organisations provided volunteering opportunities to 330 'unique' volunteers who between them offered 40,707 volunteering hours to support our residents.**



**Reach: voluntary and community groups are able to respond flexibly and quickly to changes in need, adapting their model of service delivery and enabling residents to access support in different ways.**

# Advice (Tackling poverty)

A broad range of issues including benefits, debt, budgeting, housing, immigration.



**28,000**

Residents in over 26 different community locations



**£12,793,696**

Confirmed benefit gains for residents



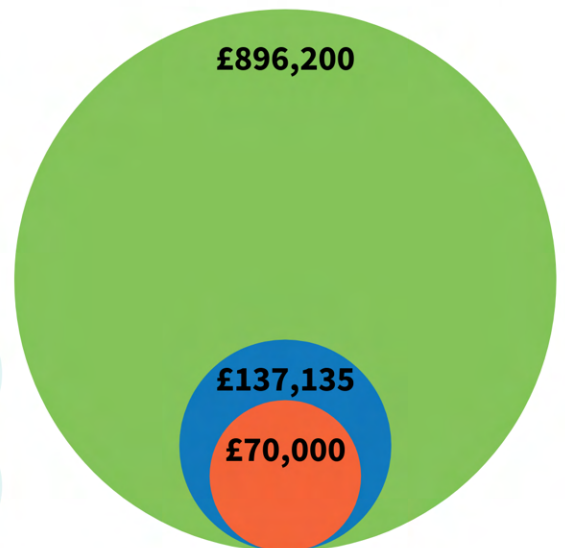
**£1,103,335**

Funding



## Funding Source

- Public Health
- Council General Fund
- Homesless Prevention Grant



# Employment Support

(Tackling poverty)



Intensive support for hard to reach residents with few or no qualifications and experience, enabling them to move closer to work or training.

**£200,760**

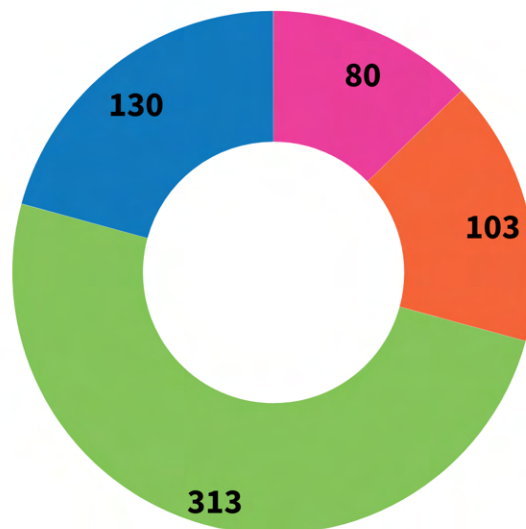
Funding Council General Fund



## Number of People Supported

**626**

Residents Supported



- Ideal for All Ltd
- Lion Farm Action Centre (Sandwell) Ltd
- Skills Work and Ent Dev Agency Ltd (SWEDA)
- Sandwell Consortium

# Support for people on a low income

(Tackling poverty)

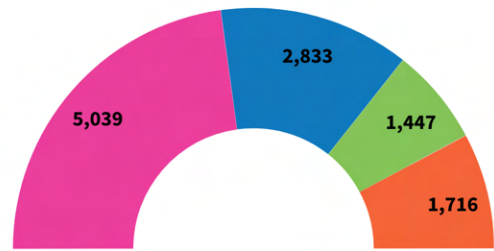


Grants to food banks and food pantries for the purchase of food.

## Parcels/Vouchers Redeemed by Organisation

**28,000**

People Supported



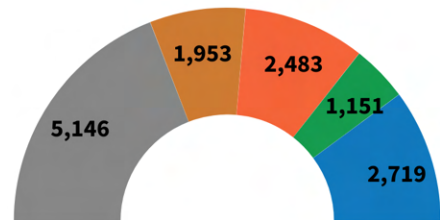
- Smethwick Food Bank
- West Bromwich Food bank
- Breaking Bread Food Bank (Wednesbury)
- Brushstrokes

**£76,680**

Housing Support Fund



## Total Number of Visits by Food Pantry



- Manna House
- Smethwick
- Brasshouse, Smethwick
- Open Heaven, Wednesbury
- Murray Hall, Tipton





# Community Centres

(Reducing social isolation)



Grant funding enables vcs partners to keep centres open and provide a mix of free and affordable activities.

Centres provide: a point of contact for information about other activities, services and support available to residents from other vcs partners and the council, digital access, opportunities to volunteer. They help to build community cohesion, enabling people from different communities and backgrounds to mix.

**£1,096,891**

External Funding accessed by  
Community Centres



**£513,956**

Council General Fund



**438,379**

Visits to Community Centres



Total volunteering hours  
in community centres



# Support for Children & Families

(Best start in life)



Grant funding supports universal play activities and targeted support for vulnerable children.

**£505,329**

Council General Fund

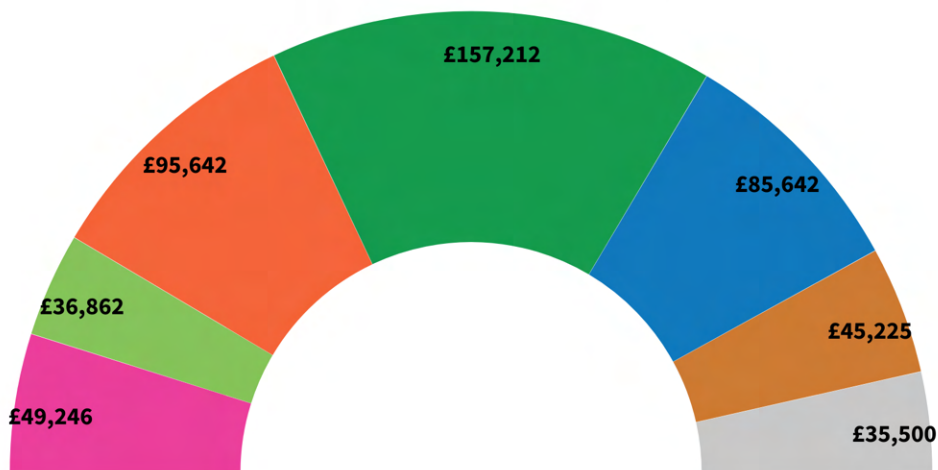


**8,349**

Number of children/ families supported



## Organisations Funded



- West Smethwick Enterprise
- Autism West Midlands
- Powered by CAN Ltd (formerly Creative Academies Ltd)
- Groundwork West Midlands
- Murray Hall Community Trust
- SADWICA Day Nursery
- Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children



# Support for Children & Families

(Activities)



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>	<u>Programme/ activity</u>	<u>Number of young people/ families</u>
West Smethwick Enterprise	49,246	Pre school support for children and families, including stay and play and a contact centre	Up to 104 children in 4 pre-schools
Autism West Midlands	36,862	Parent support group & training for parents & professionals	54 parents face to face 345 via Facebook
Powered by CAN Ltd (formerly Creative Academies Ltd)	95,642	Go Play Programme West Bromwich	2,569
Groundwork West Midlands	157,212	Go Play Programme Tipton, Smethwick & Wednesbury	1,444
Murray Hall Community Trust	85,642	Go Play Programme Rowley Regis & Oldbury	3,451
SADWICA Day Nursery	45,225	Subsidised childcare	Up to 48
Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children	35,500	Programme of activities and events including briefings from health providers and well-being sessions	300 parent carers and 334 children with a disability



# Support for older people

(Ageing well)

Services that enable older people to continue to live independently at home and reduce isolation amongst older adults



# Support for older people

(Activities)



<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23 grant (£)</u></b>	<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b><u>Number supported</u></b>
<b>Agewell (Sapphire Services)</b>	<b>151,800 (Better Care Fund)</b>	<b>Support for older patients at Sandwell &amp; Russells Hall hospitals during their stay and for 6 weeks after discharge to prevent readmission</b>	<b>747 people</b>
<b>Age UK Sandwell</b>	<b>128,063</b>	<b>Information &amp; advice</b>	<b>3,834 phone enquiries 637 face to face enquiries</b>
<b>Cape Community Care Day Centre</b>	<b>13,228</b>	<b>Day care &amp; lunch club</b>	<b>233 people befriended 73 people provided with meals 59 drop in sessions 30 social hang out sessions</b>
<b>The Salvation Army</b>	<b>11,515</b>	<b>Open door coffee shop &amp; community lunch</b>	<b>1,980 people used the coffee shop and 288 people attended the lunch club</b>
<b>West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre</b>	<b>113,118</b>	<b>Day care &amp; health and wellbeing activities</b>	<b>41 people a week receive day care. Total visits each year 3264 200 people a year (health &amp; wellbeing activities )</b>
<b>Yemeni Community Association in Sandwell</b>	<b>17,175</b>	<b>hot nutritious lunches &amp; wraparound information, advice &amp; advocacy</b>	<b>191 lunches for men 434 lunches for women</b>



# Community Offer

(Early help)



The Community Offer provides a range of community based low level preventative support services across Sandwell, to residents aged 18 plus.

**1,112**

Number of individuals supported

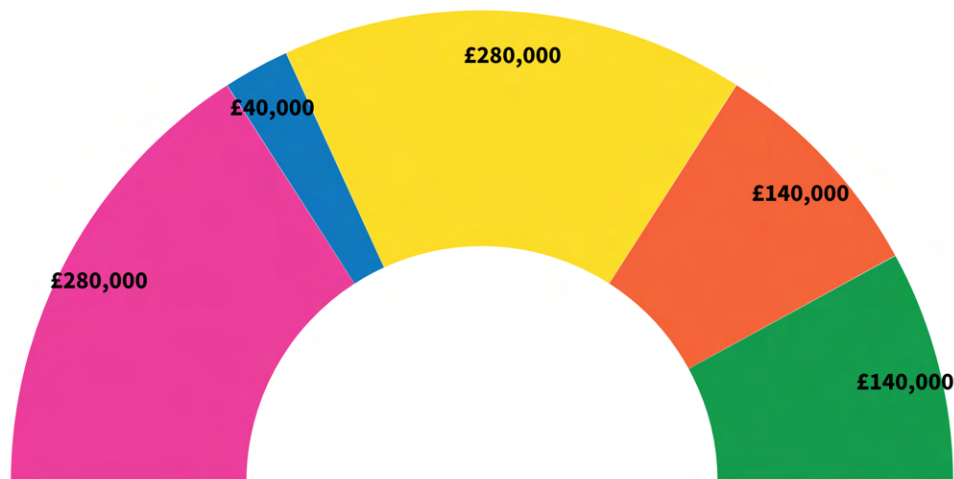


**£880.000**

Funding Better Care Fund



## Organisations Funded



- Communities in Sync
- Ideal for All Ltd
- Murray Hall Community Trust
- St Albans Community Association
- The Kaleidoscope Plus Group



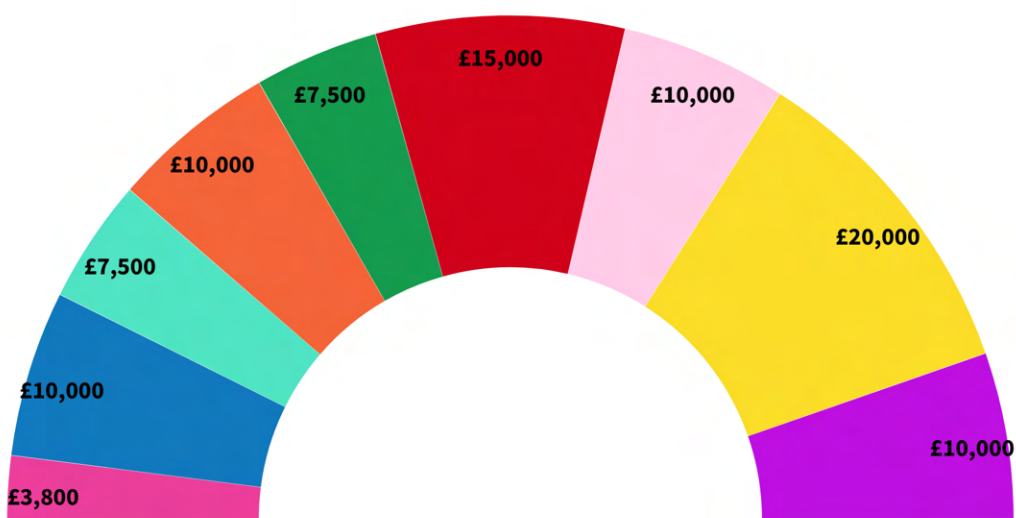
# Carers Support

(Early help)



The council has a duty to support carers. By working closely in partnership with voluntary groups we are able to extend the reach and range of support services. These grants fund activities which improve carer health and wellbeing, help to sustain caring relationships and enable carers to take part in social and leisure activities.

## Organisations Funded



- Halesowen Asian Elderly Association
  South Asian Family Support (SAFS)
- COPE (Group reduced its activities Sept 2022)
  BUDS
  Crossroads
- Crossroads Training
  Omega
  Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children
- West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre



**900+**

Number of carers supported



**£93,800**

Better Care Fund



# Carers Support

(Focus of Support)



<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23 grant (£)</u></b>	<b><u>Focus of support</u></b>
<b>Halesowen Asian Elderly Association</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>26 older Asian carers and their families</b>
<b>South Asian Family Support (SAFS)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>142 South Asian families with a disabled child</b>
<b>COPE Group reduced its activities Sept 2022</b>	<b>7,500 Grant ended Sept 2022</b>	<b>Training &amp; peer support for 212 carers supporting people with diagnosed mental health conditions, learning disability etc. Now offer peer support, over 600 newsletters</b>
<b>BUDS</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>Dementia</b>
<b>Crossroads</b>	<b>£7,500</b>	<b>Carers 18 + Range of support including bereavement</b>
<b>Crossroads Training</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>Specialist training for groups of carers</b>
<b>Omega</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>Phone befriending for 68 isolated carers</b>
<b>Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children</b>	<b>£20,000</b>	<b>Families with a disabled child 300 carers pa</b>
<b>West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>213 carers, primarily from the African Caribbean community</b>





# Support for vulnerable adults

(Targeted early help)



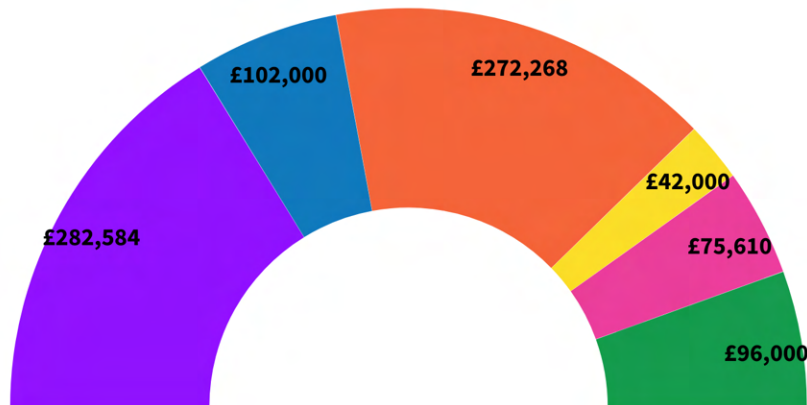
Grant funding for voluntary organisations that provide specialist support targeted at specific vulnerable groups (victims of domestic abuse, those at risk of homelessness, refugees and asylum seekers).

8,000+

Number of individuals supported



## Funding Source



- New Burdens Fund (DLUHC)
- Public Health Grant
- Council General Fund
- Covid Grant
- Homeless Prevention Grant
- Home Office ARAP/ACRS



# Support for vulnerable adults

(Activities)



**Organisation**

**2022/23 grant (£)**

**Client group**

**Activities**

**Black Country Women's Aid**

**287,268  
(245,268 Council General Fund + 42,000 Public Health)**

**Victims of domestic abuse**

**Community Service: received 2,662 referrals for specialist support. 227 referrals to Ask Marc Rape & Sexual Violence service supported 173 people.**

**Black Country Women's Aid**

**87,499 (10 months) New Burdens Fund**

**Victims of domestic abuse**

**Resettlement & other support for families living at the refuge. February 2023 onwards these activities are now included within the Refuge/ Safe Accommodation 5 year contract. 89 adults & 119 children supported in refuge 51 households were supported to successfully move on from refuge into their own accommodation.**

**Black Country Women's Aid**

**17,500 New Burdens Fund**

**Victims of domestic abuse**

**Victim safety adviser providing specialist support to victims who want to remain in their own homes through Sandwell's Sanctuary Scheme. 37 households supported.**

**Black Country Women's Aid**

**116,985 New Burdens Fund**

**Victims of domestic abuse**

**Therapeutic support in safe accommodation. 92 adults and children supported.**



# Support for vulnerable adults (Activities)



**Organisation**

**2022/23 grant (£)**

**Client group**

**Activities**

**Black Country Women's Aid**

**102,600 (42,000 Covid Grant + £60,600 New Burdens Fund)**

**Victims of domestic abuse**

**Professional case workers in Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub & Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
243 cases  
Domestic abuse screening pilot – 4801 domestic abuse notifications raised with MASH.**

**Brushstrokes**

**27,000 Council General Fund**

**Those at risk of destitution**

**4161 individuals representing 11,535 beneficiaries helped with food or resource support. 420 individuals in housing crisis supported.**

**Brushstrokes**

**60,000 Public Health**

**Refugees, asylum seekers, migrants**

**Holistic support for vulnerable migrants, with a focus on migrant health issues.  
150 individual health appointments at Brushstrokes and 715 individual cases at outreach locations since Oct 2022.**

**Brushstrokes**

**96,000 ARAP/ACRS**

**Afghan refugees**

**Holistic support for Afghan refugees.  
80 individuals supported plus 179 dependent children and adults.**

**SHARP**

**75,610 Homeless Prevention Grant**

**Homeless**

**Provision of up to 30 bed spaces for vulnerable teenagers and up to 19 bed spaces for single homeless people.  
Grant ends June 2023.**



# Better Health

(including better mental health)



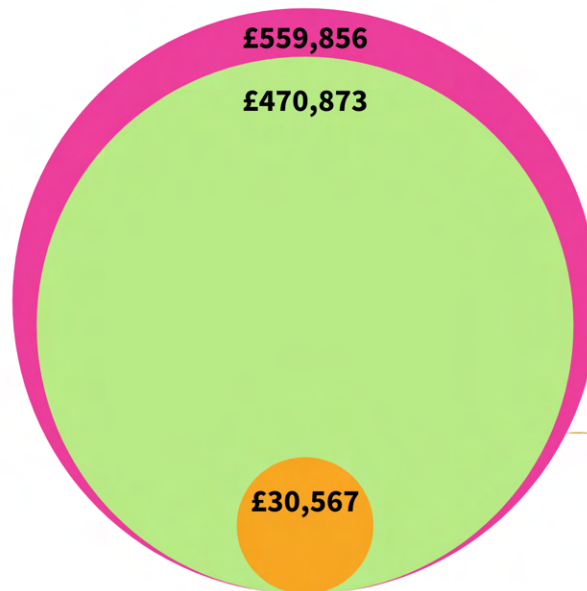
Provision of targeted support to enable residents to manage their condition and improve their overall mental and physical wellbeing.

**6,500+**

Number of individuals supported



## Funding Source



- Public Health Grant
- Council General Fund
- Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)



**200 +  
Staff Trained**



# Better Health (Activities)



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>
Cruse Bereavement Care	24,743	30 hours a week of 1:1 bereavement counselling	412 people supported 144 people trained 127 public awareness sessions
O.S.C.A.R Sandwell Co Ltd	48,491	Support for Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia sufferers & their families	231 people – face to face support 700 phone enquiries
Birmingham Relate	21,464	Relationship and family breakdown counselling	819 counselling hours delivered, 370 people supported
The Kaleidoscope Plus Group	86,456	Care, support & advice for residents with poor mental health (including income maximisation, physical & mental health support, help to maintain accommodation, employment support)	155 people supported
Sandwell African Caribbean Mental Health Foundation	135,460 General Fund	Information, advice and support primarily for members of the Black, African and Caribbean Community experiencing mental ill health, their Carers, and their families	169 individuals, including 20 carers
Ideal for All Ltd	50,000 General Fund	Peer support groups for a range of disabilities	98 social media 494 peer support groups held
Sandwell Deaf Community Association (Prevention Grant)	41,576 General Fund	Intensive support for people with hearing loss	60 service users



# Better Health (Activities)



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>
Sandwell Deaf Community Association	106,780 General Fund	Support services for deaf people and for professionals working with deaf people	200 service users, 44 advocacy clients with 185 issues completed, 140 BSL interpreter sessions
Sandwell Visually Impaired	37,967 General Fund	Support services to registered blind and partially sighted residents and their families	676 info & advice service users, 1023 network service users, 991 Sandwell Talking News, 1363 members, 176 health activities 1218 attend peer support
African French Speaking Community Support	6,003 SSMTRG	Support for people in recovery from substance misuse	38 people supported
European Welfare Association	8,925 SSMTRG	Support for people in recovery from substance misuse	Social media campaign
St John's Church Dudley Wood Community Link	7,400 SSMTRG	Support for people in recovery from substance misuse	300+ attended community cafe
The Kaleidoscope Plus Group	8,239 SSMTRG	Support for people in recovery from substance misuse	20 people mental health+ programme 5 staff trained
Sandwell Consortium	178,000	Sandwell Health Inequalities Programme	995 people engaged
Sandwell Consortium	200,702	Sandwell Language Network	40 ESOL courses delivered in 6 months 403 participants
Changing Our Lives	99,090 General Fund	Quality of life reviews, facilitation of quarterly Learning Disability and Autism and Mental Health People's Parliaments	Book launch - 20 people Health inequalities Parliament - 10 Training for provider agencies - 12 staff Happy Lives, Safer Relationships events 2 events - 50 staff

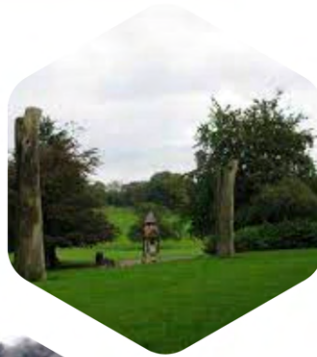


# Our Environment

The conscious and intentional efforts made by individuals, organisations, and communities to oversee and control various aspects of the environment in which they operate.

**£72,488**

Council General Fund - Awarded to Warley Woods Community Trust



Maintain and manage Warley Woods Park, Warley Woods, an outstanding green flag park in Sandwell and an Royal Forestry Society (RFS silver) award winner



# Arts

Activities that involve the creation of visual, auditory, or performance artifacts that express the creator's imagination, skill, and emotional response.



**£135,276**

Council General Fund



## Organisations Funded

**£21,110**

**Black Country  
Touring**

**£114,116**

**Multistory**



**25,500+ Attending  
67 Events**





# Arts (Activities)



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Numbers Engaged</u>
Black Country Touring	21,110	programme of professional theatre, dance, cinema activities in community venues	16,244 people attended 42 community performance in 16 venues 5,923 people attended the What's in store production in Wednesbury and Bearwood, 273 people attended 23 Sandwell Community Cinema screenings in 6 venues
Multistory	114,166	artists work with communities to tell and share their stories	500 attended "We are Wednesbury" Platinum Jubilee event, 2,605 people attended the What's in store event and 1,438,617 estimated people viewed People, Place and Sport Exhibition



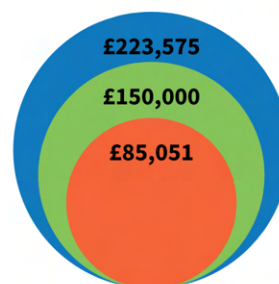
# Support for our voluntary & community groups

(vcs infrastructure)



## Funding Source

- Public Health Grant
- Council General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account



Sandwell has a vibrant, diverse strong and resilient voluntary and community sector.

A range of free support is available to help voluntary and community groups to get started, expand and adjust to changes.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>
SCVO (Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations)	308,626

## Activities

Support for any voluntary and community group (capacity building, networking, funding, communication and volunteering)

106 groups received capacity building support, including 77 in-depth cases  
 231 volunteering opportunities from 189 organisations listed on [LetsGoSandwell](#)

Quarterly meetings of Sandwell Volunteer Coordinators' Forum (60+ volunteer involving organisations)  
 50 ebulletins sent out  
 18 forums & reference groups  
 10 briefing events  
[Route2Wellbeing](#) and [SandwellFamilyLife](#)

listing hundreds of activities and service for residents  
 138 organisations in the Early Help Partnership

Support for groups of council tenants and residents  
 6358 tenants and residents engaged  
 1196 residents and service users consulted

SCIPS (Sandwell Community Information and Participation Services Ltd)	150,000
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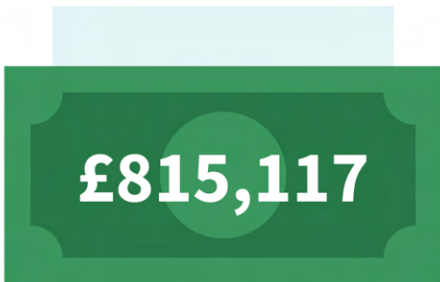
# Voluntary sector grant programmes



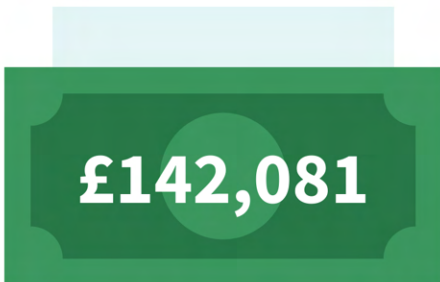
Council grant funding enabled SCVO to run the following grant programmes.

## Grant Programmes

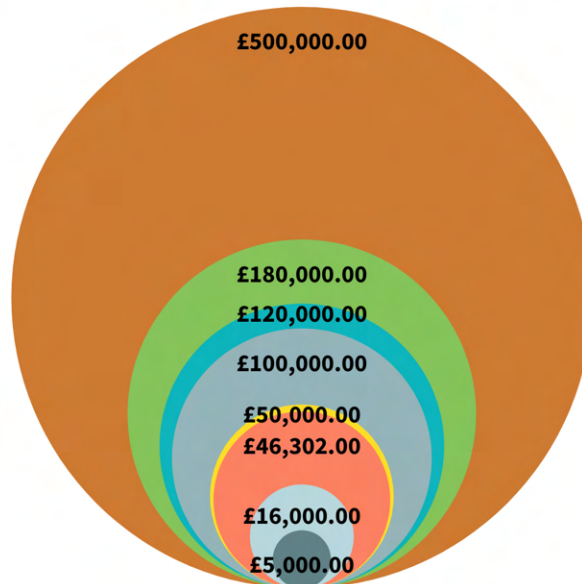
- Vision 2030
- Vision 2030 Warm Spaces
- Vision 2030 Climate Change
- Vision 2030 Community Mental health
- Vision 2030 Mental Health Strategy development microgrants
- Vision 2030 COVID Community support/ recovery (phase 2)
- Vision 2030 Digital strategy
- Young People's Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Programme



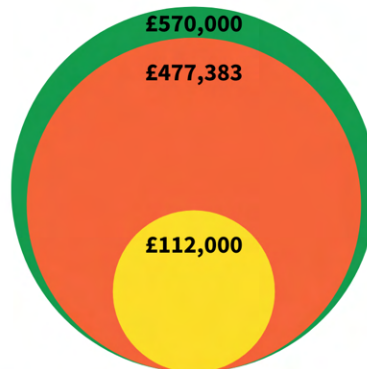
**133 Grants Awarded**



**Awarded to manage Grants**



## Funding Source (Total)



- Public Health Grant
- Covid Grant
- DLUHC



# Voluntary sector grant programmes

(Activities)



<u>Grants programme</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>		<u>Funding</u>	<u>Details</u>
	<u>Grant Pot</u>	<u>Management Fee</u>		
Vision 2030	120,000 60,000	32,000 16,000	Public Health	36 grants totalling £96,517
Vision 2030 Warm Spaces	120,000	15,000	Public Health	34 groups provided Warm Spaces until end March 2023
Vision 2030 Climate Change	50,000	6,000	Public Health	10 grants totalling £23,082
Vision 2030 Community Mental health	40,500 5,802	4,500 581	Public Health	11 grants totalling £45,519 3 grant extensions totalling £5,802
Vision 2030 Mental Health Strategy development microgrants	5,000	2,000	Public Health	12 grants totalling £3,500
Vision 2030 COVID Community support/ recovery (phase 2)	100,000	12,000	Community Champions Grant MHCLG/ DLUHC	17 grants totalling £44,852
Vision 2030 Digital strategy	16,000	4,000	Covid grant	Awards being made May-June 2023
Young People's Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Programme	500,000	50,000	Covid grant	8 awards made with committed spend of £433,791
Food Pantry Development Grants	0	0	DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant/ Household Support Fund prior to 2022/23	2 awards totalling £27,054



# Other Grants Programmes



<https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>



## *Holiday Activities & Food*

- ✓ 10,722 children and young people engaged (17% of all children and young people in Sandwell) across 3 holiday periods (Easter, Summer and Christmas)
- ✓ 50 Partners (35 vcs)
- ✓ £1,954,950 Department of Education
- ✓ 1,363 Sessions



## School Holiday Activities Programme

- ✓ 1877 children supported
- ✓ 17 organisations
- ✓ £66,768 Council General Fund



# Community Partnership Grants



- ✓ 8 vcs groups funded
- ✓ £46,132 (16,150 HRA ,29,982 General Fund)

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>2022/23 grant (£)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Vibes N Shine	5,000	Youth activity in Rowley Regis
Kuumba	5,000	Hate crime project (toolkit)
The Sacred Chain	900	Childrens personal safety project
Ileys	20,000	Energy efficiency reports in 20 VCS managed community centres
Kickstart Dance	8,000	Wellbeing youth club
Friar Park Millennium Centre	5,000	Homework club
Yew Tree Community Association	1,000	Community Orchard
Sandwell Irish	1,232	Falls prevention



# Town Grants



**St Matthews Church - £2355**

**Sandwell Visually Impaired - £1598**

**CBO - £4089**

**CADS - £4310**

**St Francis Church - £2914**

**FO Mary Macarthur Gardens - £1409**

**Golden Opportunities - £2940**

**Special Olympics Sandwell - £2961**

**Bearwood Allotments - £4320**

**Wodensborough ABC - £4144**

**Wednesbury Sons of Rest - £1154**

**Friends of Goldcroft Park - £914**

**Yew Tree & Tame Bridge Comm. Centre - £3920**

**Breakthru - £1247**

**Midland Langar Seva Society - £2769**

**St John's Community Centre - £1237**

**SPMA Ltd - £2757**

**Toll End over 50's - £508**

**Oakham Evangelical Church - £4797**

**Age UK - £1610**

**Sur Sangam - £1432**

**St James Church (Rounds Green) - £4786**



**£58,171**

**Community Infrastructure Levy**



# Town Grants (Activities)



## Organisation

St Matthews Church

Sandwell Visually Impaired

CBO

CADS

St Francis Church

FO Mary Macarthur Gardens

Golden Opportunities

Special Olympics Sandwell

Bearwood Allotments

Wodensborough ABC

Wednesbury Sons of Rest

## Activity

Equipment for Play & Stay group 0-4 year olds

Laptop, specialist keyboard & microphone headset to provide support sessions

Portable folding tables to increase flexibility and capacity at Greets Green Resource Centre

LED Lighting system for performances

Chairs and tables and light exercise equipment for Place of Welcome

Gardening equipment and tools to keep the gardens looking their best

IT equipment for training and support with IT skills development

Athletics, cricket and badminton equipment for people with learning disabilities

Roof to storage unit to secure storage for their supplies.

Boxing and exercise equipment to allow more people to use the gym

Chairs to improve the facilities and encourage new groups and members.





# Town Grants (Activities)



## Organisation

**Friends of Goldicroft Park**

**Yew Tree & Tame Bridge Comm Centre**

**Breakthru**

**Midland Langar Seva Society**

**St John's Community centre**

**SPMA Ltd**

**Toll End Over 50's**

**Oakham Evangelical Church**

**Age UK**

**Sur Sangam**

**St James Church - Rounds Green**

## Activity

**Tools, sports equipment, generator and gazebo to be able to run community events and activities**

**Kitchen refurbishment to attract new groups.**

**Sofa, chair and table to extend their counselling services to include couples and families**

**Marquee, tables, barriers and cooking equipment for feeding the vulnerable in the community**

**2 new double doors to secure the premises and attract new members and groups.**

**Tablets to run ICT classes free of charge, to the community.**

**Catering equipment and entertainment facilities to improve the groups provision**

**Benches, storage and garden toys etc. to create a community garden**

**2 bowls mats to allow 2 groups to continue and to attract new members**

**Sound system to support their music group with putting on additional performances**

**Pool tables stage lighting and PC to help the young people develop new skills.**

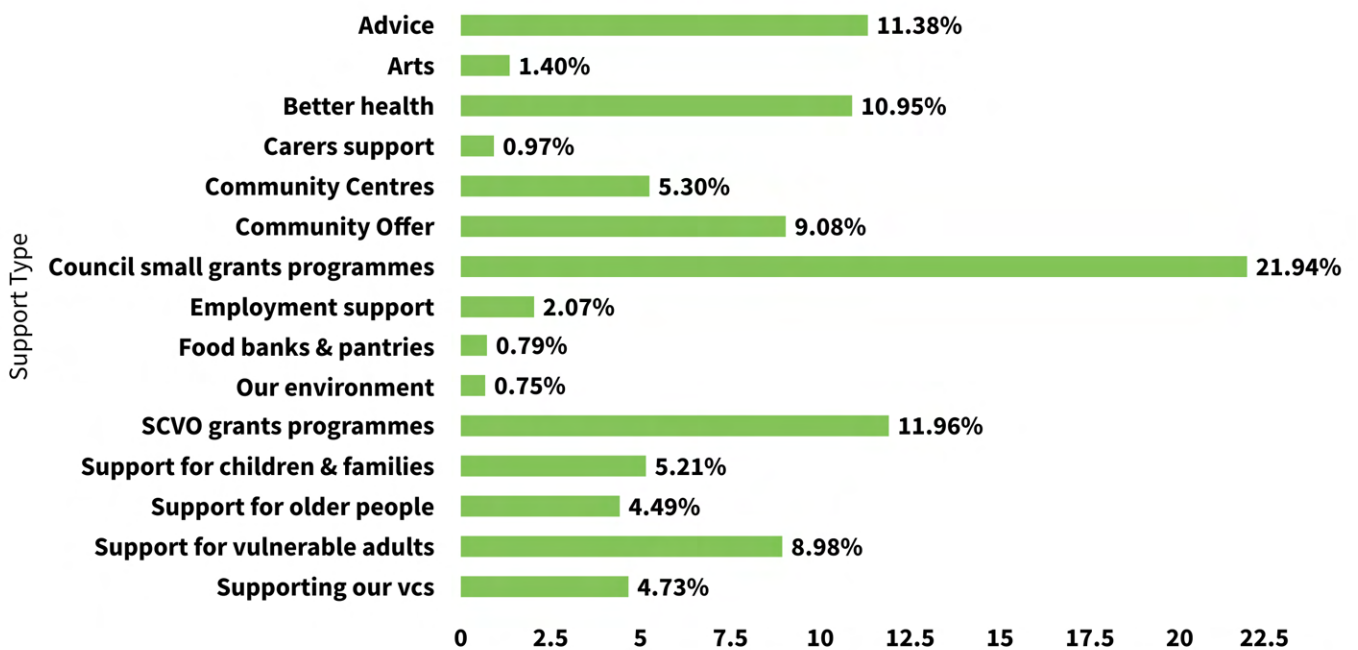


# Funding Summary



**Council grant by support type.**

## Funding Allocation by Support Type

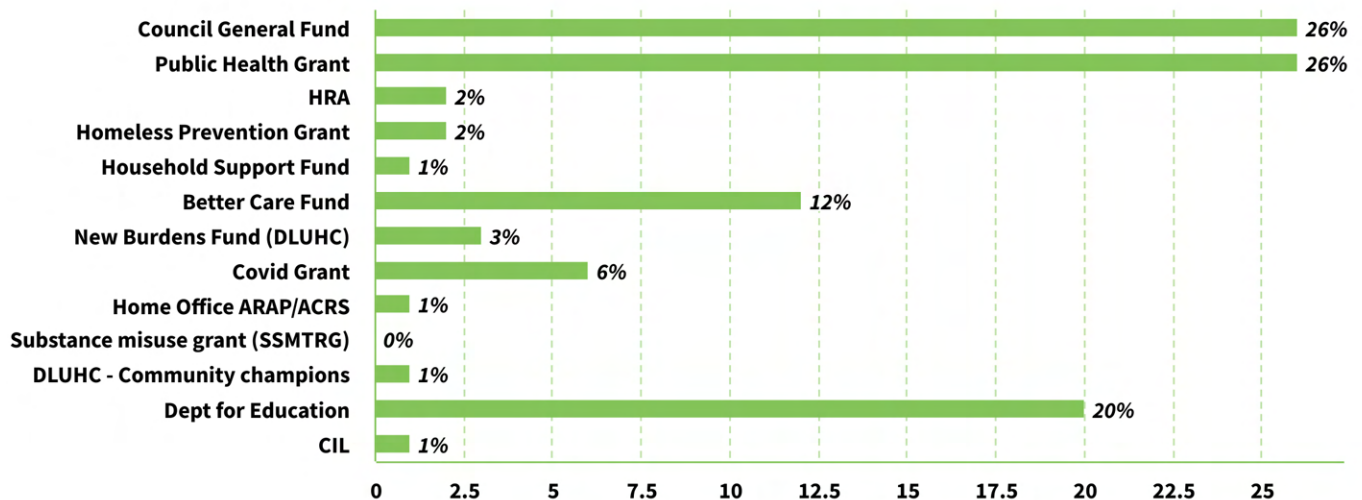


# Funding Summary



## Council grants by funding source

### Funding Source



### List of organisations in the final year of funding

In 2022-23 we conducted a number of reviews of grants to examine the activities and outcomes the funding delivered, how these aligned with council priorities and value for money. This resulted in the discontinuation of grant funding to the following organisations:

- Community Transport
- Community Action Project
- The Branch
- 6 Towns Credit Union
- Warley Community Gym
- Victim Support.

Where possible we have supported the organisations to manage this transition from grant aid.



# Summary and looking forward to 2023/24

**This report highlights the importance of continuing support for the voluntary and community sector through grant funding and provides an insight into the impact of grant funding on our communities.**

**Stable grant funding enables our voluntary and community sector partners to make a very significant contribution to Vision 2030. Our grant funding supports a mix of both universal services and activities, available to all Sandwell residents, as well as targeted help for more vulnerable people. We are planning to bring grant funding into a centralised budget in 2023/24, giving us more flexibility in how we respond to changing needs and revise funding priorities in future.**

**The grants have been funded from a wide range of sources and it is striking that only 26% of the funding comes from the council's General Fund. Looking ahead, this will present a significant challenge as time limited Government funding sources end (such as the New Burdens Fund which ends in March 2024) and decisions will have to be made about funding priorities. This will be particularly challenging at a time when need for support is continuing to grow as a result of the long-term impact of covid and the continuing cost of living emergency.**



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PEOPLE LIVE WELL AND AGE WELL



STRONG RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



QUALITY HOMES IN THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS



A STRONG AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



A CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE SANDWELL



ONE COUNCIL ONE TEAM