BMSDC Grants - Communities
Mid Suffolk District Council
Living Well in Winter Grants 2026-27

1. Introduction

Mid Suffolk District Council offers Community Grants to organisations that deliver community support, projects or activities within Mid Suffolk. The Mid Suffolk Plan outlines the priorities of Mid Suffolk District Council. All funding awarded by the Council aligns to one or more of our priorities.

These notes are designed to help you complete our Living Well in Winter Grant application form and we suggest that you read them through fully before you complete the forms.

Details on our available Grants can be found on our website. View information on Community Grants in Babergh or Mid Suffolk.

2. Living Well in Winter Grants

The Living Well in Winter Grant supports local VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) organisations to help Mid Suffolk residents thrive during the winter months. Funding is intended to address the pressures that colder weather and tighter household budgets place on wellbeing, social connection, and health.

Funding should enable organisations to deliver projects that respond to winter-specific challenges, including:

- Social isolation due to shorter days, poor weather and reduced mobility can limit opportunities for recreation, socialising and community connection.
- Household heating pressures due to rising living costs which may prevent residents from heating their homes adequately, increasing health risks.
- Mental health impacts, financial strain, isolation and reduced daylight can exacerbate anxiety, low mood and stress.
- Reduced physical activity and the associated negative health and wellbeing impacts.

Organisations may apply for up to £2,000.00. Match funding is not required.

3. Terms and Conditions

3.1. Organisations

Applications for grants will only be considered from constituted VCFSE organisations which:

- Provide a service for the benefit of Mid Suffolk residents
- Are financially viable, as evidenced by audited or independently examined accounts.
- Have Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies for employees, volunteers and attendees
- Provide services which align with the Council's priorities, do not duplicate services already being provided/grant aided, and will meet proven identified needs. In the case of 'start up'

initiatives, evidence of the need for the new service needs to be supported and reflect community demand

3.2. Ineligible Organisations

Living Well in Winter Grants are not available for:

- Private individuals
- For-profit businesses
- Statutory authorities
- Schools where there is no wider community benefit
- Churches where there is no wider community access
- Community groups without an independent bank account
- Activities promoting religious or political beliefs
- Services commenced or goods ordered prior to Grants being awarded

3.3. VAT

If your organisation is registered for and can reclaim VAT, any Grant awarded will be exclusive of VAT. If your organisation is unable to reclaim VAT, Grants awarded will be inclusive of VAT.

3.4. Conditions

- Projects should deliver community benefits, and these benefits as well as project outcomes should be identified as part of the application process.
- All services/projects need to be delivered within a specified time period. By the end of the period the services/project should be sustainable, or have a plan in place for future funding.
- The Council reserves the right to request a copy of any applying organisation's policies or constitution prior to an application being assessed or funding being released to a successful applicant.
- If any conditions are breached, the Council reserves the right to seek recovery of all or part of the grant. If you do not immediately repay these monies, when requested to do so by the Council, the Council reserves the right to commence County Court proceedings for recovery of the outstanding monies, together with interest and Legal costs.
- Funding will not be released until the full funding package for the project has been evidenced.

4. Eligible Projects and Costs

4.1. Examples of Eligible Projects

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- After school clubs, providing spaces for children and young people during darker evenings.
- Warm or social spaces — community-led provision offering warmth, connection and low-cost activities.
- Subsidised family sports sessions (e.g., swimming), places must be subsidised equitably, ensuring fair access for families most affected by winter pressures.
- Multi-generational activities such as subsidised sports, arts and crafts, cooking sessions or shared learning opportunities.
- Lunch clubs or supper clubs providing social connection, warmth and nutritious food.
- Enrichment activities offering experiences that help residents develop core skills, confidence and new hobbies.

- Associated core costs, where essential to delivering the project (e.g., staffing, utilities, insurance). These costs may be included but cannot be the primary focus of an application.

4.2. Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include:

- Applications for ongoing running costs — where the funding would solely support routine operational expenditure without a defined winter-specific project or community benefit.

4.3. Assessment Expectations

Strong applications should be fully completed, include all required supporting documentation and typically show:

- A clear understanding of the winter-specific issue being addressed in Mid Suffolk.
- Wider community benefit, not solely benefit to a closed membership group.
- Evidence of local need (data, community feedback, demand indicators).
- A realistic, costed plan demonstrating how the grant will be used.
- Clear outputs and anticipated outcomes for Mid Suffolk residents.
- Proportionate safeguarding, risk management and organisational capacity.

5. Process

The application process is competitive with all applications assessed using a scoring matrix. Applicants must propose one project outcome and identify the indicators they will use to monitor progress.

Eligible groups may apply for up to £2,000. Applications can be submitted from Monday 12 October to Sunday 22 November. Applications will be assessed once the window closes and organisations will be informed of the outcome of their application by Friday 4 December.

If any funding remains unallocated, the Living Well in Winter Grants will reopen on a first come, first served basis. The total amount of funding available is £20,000.

All awarded funding must be spent within 6 months of accepting the grant offer. Organisations will be required to provide invoices/receipts for all expenditure and complete a monitoring form.

6. Contact

If you have any queries, would like more information or would like to discuss a potential project and funding application, please email the Grants Team at BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.