

# WRCC WARM HUBS PROJECT

## Winter Warm Hubs in Warwickshire & Solihull Report findings: 2023-2024



## 1. INTRODUCTION

WRCC's Warm Hubs community project, sponsored by Cadent, has been running throughout Warwickshire and Solihull since late November 2020. The project targets social isolation and fuel poverty, plus the increasing rise in cost of living. More information on the Warm Hubs project and its work to support and connect communities can be found [at WRCC's website](#).

Faced with rapidly rising energy and living costs in Winter 2022-23, WRCC temporarily expanded its network of hubs, to help more community groups set up and expand events to support their local residents. The charity also increased its network of permanent accredited Warm Hubs to 14 members, who have continued to run events all year round.

For Winter 2023-24, WRCC again decided to expand its network temporarily, because:

- More community groups wanted to set up or expand existing events to support social interaction and residents' mental and physical wellbeing over winter (and potentially longer)
- Rising costs of living and accumulated debt (often due to a complex combination of factors) were continuing to impact upon those most vulnerable, particularly during the colder months
- In addition to funding, WRCC wanted to offer more support to hubs based on previous feedback and a desire to increase the project's longer term community impact

***“[Our hub encourages] social confidence and interaction, emotional support, the area is a better place to live with a social hub.”***

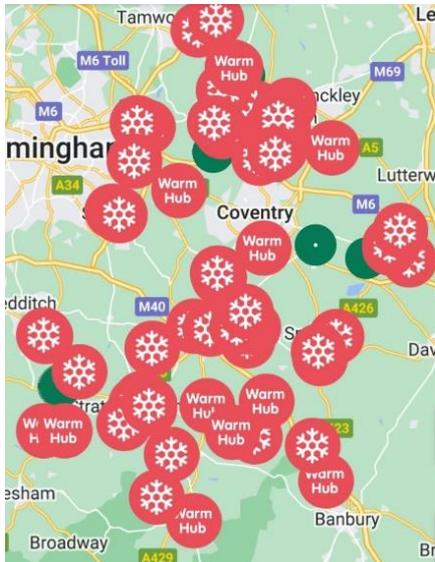
***“People are not so isolated and know if they have a problem we will signpost them to the right agency ... I did not have the contacts last year that I have this year thanks to your help”***

Phase 1 Winter Warm Hub grants (for mid October 2023 to the end of March 2024) was provided by Cadent project funding. Existing Warm Hubs and new Winter Warm Hubs could apply for a small grant of up to £500, to enable them to provide additional support to communities over winter, in accordance with the Warm Hub project objectives. Additional Phase 2 Winter Warm Hub funding for hubs, including a series of digital skills courses, was again provided by Warwickshire County Council (from mid December 2023 to the end of April 2024). Out of 84 hubs taking part, five did not request funding.

Each hub received a welcome pack comprising an Organiser's Checklist, Winter Warm Hub logo, project data forms, and a searchable listing on WRCC's online map and directory. Hubs were given information and resource packs (also accessible online) including energy saving advice, home safety tips, advice on damp/draft proofing, support services signposting, information on the Priority Services and carbon monoxide safe toolkits. Room thermometers and carbon monoxide alarms were also provided.



Feedback was obtained using a range of methods. WRCC's Warm Hubs team visited the vast majority of hubs at least once during the winter and hubs were requested to provide basic monthly data and feedback. All organisers were asked to complete post event questionnaires, with 85% of those providing completed responses.



Of these, **97% wanted to carry on some form of community activity**, either by joining WRCC's accredited Warm Hubs network (for hubs running all year round), continuing to run a community hub on their own, or contemplating running again next winter.

This report looks at the findings from WRCC's Winter Warm Hubs initiative, reviews some of the changes that have been included as a result of feedback from last winter, eg online training and digital inclusion courses, and highlights future possible developments for the Warm Hubs project.

## 2. KEY FINDINGS AND YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISONS

- There were **84 hubs** in WRCC's network during Winter 2023-24
- Between them, hubs ran **1,562 events** with a total footfall of **31,139 visits**
- **97%** of organisers said their hub had achieved their objectives
- **Two thirds** of organisers identified social interaction as their priority, while still seeking to provide cost of living and additional support to attendees as may be required
- **95%** of organisers felt their hub had helped to improve people's wellbeing and nearly **6 out of 10** said it had helped to provide cost of living support
- Nearly **4 out of 5** organisers felt their hub had significantly helped attendees with **40%** saying it had a significant impact upon the wider community
- Nearly **half** of new hubs would not have been able to run without a Winter Warm Hubs grant
- The number of hubs providing hot snacks/meals this winter rose to over **two thirds**
- The amount of popular activities/sports/exercise run at hubs also approximately **doubled**
- WRCC organised **7 digital inclusion skills** courses, run by CWCD
- **243** hub volunteers benefited from online **training sessions** run by WRCC partners
- WRCC provided additional winter support via **11 slow cooking courses**, with separate funding from WCC and supported by **136** slow cookers from Cadent
- WRCC distributed **930** information and resource packs and **919** carbon monoxide alarms to all hubs, plus an additional **332** Winter Warmth items (eg electric/fleece blankets, heated seat pads, slow cookers, thermos flasks) to permanent accredited Warm Hubs
- **14** existing WRCC accredited Warm Hubs were continuing all year round. A further **38** Winter Warm Hubs said they were interested in becoming accredited permanent hubs and **10** were planning to continue running separately. **8** said they may run again next winter and **2** had decided to stop completely. **12** hubs had not confirmed their plans by the report deadline.

Key reasons given by organisers for not running an all year round hub were availability of volunteers, venue being used for other events, and lack of funding in the longer term.

Overall, the number of hubs and number of events was slightly lower than in 2022-23. Last winter's "peak" of 92 hubs was largely driven by groups who wanted to set up new hubs, often at very short notice, to respond to the rapid rise in energy costs and cost of living. This winter, hub organisers overall seemed to have a clearer direction as to how they could best support their local communities. Several of those who applied had continued running events since last year and were keen to expand and develop their offering to support more residents more effectively.

This was reflected by the higher footfall in 2023-24, showing a 13% increase year on year in overall attendance. As hubs have become more established, they have not only consolidated but generally increased the number of residents visiting their events. Many hubs benefited from more visits from support services and organisations such as Citizens Advice, Act on Energy, the Energy Foundation (Better Housing Better Health) and Fire and Rescue Services. At one rural hub alone, 16 new Safe and Well home visits were undertaken as a direct result of such visits.

There was also a wider range of other community services providing outreach at hubs this winter. The NHS Healthy Hearts team ran several "health MOTs" at hubs within the Warwickshire North Place project area. Healthwatch Warwickshire, Warwickshire Library Services (including Mobile Libraries), Community Police, Family Information Services, Social Prescribers, Think Active and others supported local residents - many of whom were connected with hub organisers by WRCC. The British Motor Museum's volunteers were again popular at events.

Many hub organisers and volunteers were also proactive in making referrals and signposting attendees to a very broad range of services and support, some of whom are illustrated here (note: size of text does not indicate ranking).

Again, collaboration lay at the heart of the project, and some of these organisations also referred residents to local hubs.

And of course the benefits of attending events extended beyond some of the most vulnerable residents to their partners, friends and carers, who could also obtain a short period of respite in a safe, welcoming space – **"connection with others in their situation"** as one hub organiser emphasised.



**"Attendees are able to access support services while having a social event, which often might be the only social event they go to that week ... We helped more people with**

***information sharing and having third parties come in has been a huge success”***

***“We have exceeded our expectations in both the number of regular attendees and their engagement with each other. The fitness, mobility and flexibility programme has been a huge success”***

Hubs applied for funding to help set up new events or to explore new ways of targeting social isolation and/or cost of living via events that were already running. This included extending opening hours, offering more hot food/light lunches, introducing exercise classes, wellbeing support, slow cooking sessions, craft activities, gardening groups etc.

Over one third of hubs in total would not have run without the Winter Warm Hub grant of £500, rising to nearly half of new hubs joining the winter network. This showed the vital importance of funding again this year, as well as demonstrating what hub organisers could achieve with a relatively small amount of money. However, about half of all hubs still needed to access funding from other sources to deliver the range of support they wanted to provide.

The increasing recognition of the value of Warm Hubs is evidenced by the number of organisers who expressed an interest in joining WRCC’s network of permanent year round Warm Hubs. Ongoing discussions are taking place and WRCC anticipates more than doubling its current membership to 30. Due to demand, it is possible that the network may increase further although this would be subject to funding availability and support from additional sponsors.

***“The hub and community café has been one of our greatest achievements – it’s the most supported local activity in the parish”***

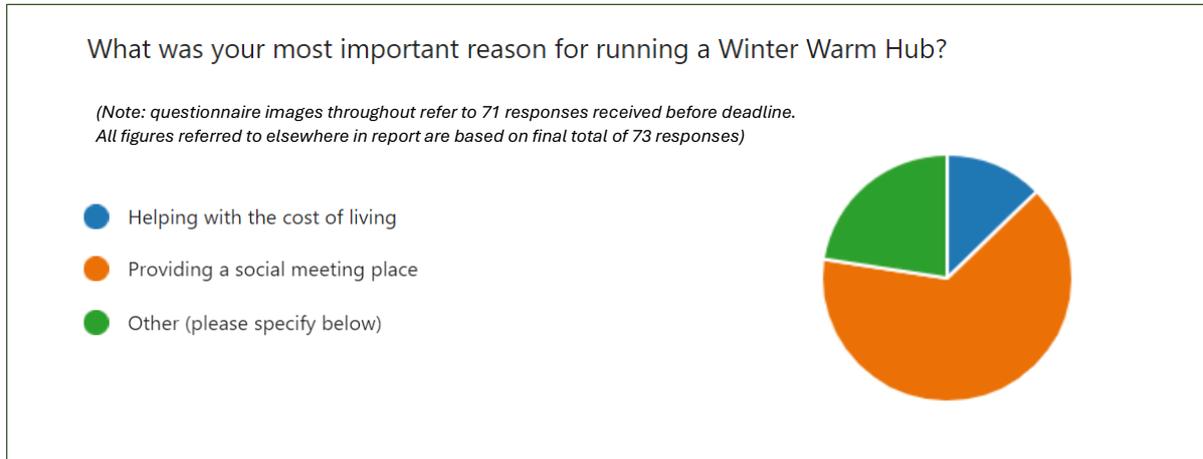
***“We had many more people this year, regularly having 55 to 75 people every week ... When we started someone suggested background music as it was a bit quiet – now you wouldn’t hear a disco due to the chatter and conversations! I look down the room and you would have trouble identifying who was lonely and vulnerable when we started”***

### **3. OVERVIEW OF HUBS**

This year, 58% of hubs were already running, either as a WRCC accredited Warm Hub or as an independent community hub. Last year, about two thirds of hubs were set up to provide cost of living support, whereas in 2023-24 two thirds of organisers focused on developing their role as social meeting places. 12% of hub organisers felt the priority was cost of living support, and the remainder (“Other” in the table below) generally identified both factors as equally important.

This did not detract from the need to support people with cost of living concerns, but instead showed a recognition that hubs needed to meet people’s social needs in the first instance. A fundamental WRCC Warm Hubs principle has always been that, once people feel welcome and

included in a safe community space, they are then more likely to engage and ask for support as and when needed.



***“A big thank you [to our hub] for all your help and support you give to us as a family ... it’s a really great help and we really do appreciate it”***

There also appeared to be a very positive perception of the name “Warm Hubs” this year. Some organisers had expressed concern about using this last year as they felt it could deter some residents from attending (possibly due to media focus on hubs as “places of last resort” for people struggling with fuel poverty and debt). In contrast, WRCC’s accredited Warm Hubs were more likely to identify themselves as “happy places” where people could find social warmth and connection all year round, and could still access a huge range of support on their own terms.

The majority of hubs were based at community centres, followed by churches and village halls, with some sports centres, art groups, hospices, community pantries and community libraries also running events. Again, running a weekly hub was by far the most popular event frequency, with some organisations running multiple events per week, and a few running monthly or occasionally fortnightly events.

Over half of this year’s Winter Warm Hubs had previously collaborated with WRCC in 2022-23. As with last year, there were more applications from potential hubs in South Warwickshire but, following WRCC’s increasing work with hubs in Rugby, North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth it was encouraging that more hubs in these areas were keen to get involved. However, despite WRCC’s attempts, interest from Solihull based groups remained low.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of events per hub, with 38% (more than double the number of hubs last year) running more than 30 sessions over winter. Just over one in ten ran less than 10 sessions, and the remaining hubs were divided equally between 11-20 sessions and 21-30 sessions. The majority running at the time stayed open for most of the Christmas period.

While all hubs provided hot drinks and biscuits/cake as a minimum, more than two thirds provided hot snacks or a hot meal – a substantial increase on last winter’s figure of 39%. Soup and a roll continued to be a popular food choice, as were salads and sandwiches. Organisers

were interested in providing additional food hygiene training to volunteers, which had been highlighted in last September's Warm Hubs workshop. More information on food safety requirements and registering as a food business, where applicable, was also included in the Organiser's Handbook.

Again, the vast majority of hubs provided refreshments free of charge, with less than half a dozen making a nominal charge only (which would have been waived by organisers for those unable to afford it). Nearly a third of hubs welcomed donations, often due to several attendees themselves wanting to make some sort of contribution.

Many organisers used WRCC's Winter Warm Hub logo in their promotional materials, and as well as creating flyers and using social media, word of mouth again played a significant role. Many hubs commented that awareness had continued to build over time, as they became more of an established local event. WRCC ran a training session, "Promoting your Hub", to support volunteers, and hosted its new clickable online map and directory of Warm Hubs and Winter Warm Hubs. Organisers could provide additional information about their events, and other community hubs could also request a free basic online listing.

WRCC's map was primarily aimed at residents looking to find their local hub although it also proved to be very useful for organisations looking to visit events, such as Fire and Rescue Services, local councillors etc. As well as raising profile, this was also an opportunity for hub organisers to connect with each other, share experiences and learning and arrange visits – as well as trying to prevent their own events from clashing with other pre-existing local activities.

***“People have built friendships and received support from visiting agencies ... [they] are more aware of what Warm Hubs can offer with their support and warm welcome. It would be good to hear what worked/didn't for other Warm Hubs. We all learn from one another!”***

***“A warm and safe space for social interaction and engagement ... [and] a lifeline of support and engagement for others ... Free food for those struggling with living costs ... Everyone in the parish knows about it”***

#### **4. ATTENDANCE AT HUBS**

One of the key strengths of WRCC Warm Hubs is the flexible model it provides for each organiser running their own community-led hub. The Organiser's Handbook included principles and practical advice, with further support provided by the Warm Hubs team, but there has never been a rigid “one size fits all” approach.

This did mean that there was a considerable variation in attendance across the winter network with some hubs attracting 80 plus attendees per week and others attracting a handful. The “average” number overall, however, increased to 20 attendees per event. Location, event

awareness, the relevance of each hub's offering for residents, and the availability of other accessible resources and events all had a part to play.

The vast majority of hub organisers were satisfied with attendance but a couple of more recently set up hubs struggled to attract people. People had the confidence to try different approaches, following learning from previous events. One group based in Nuneaton and Bedworth moved location to a more accessible venue and doubled their previous attendance. Another town based hub in Warwick District targeted a different audience, involving older children and families rather than toddlers, and attendance substantially increased due to a **“greater understanding of community need”**

The majority of hubs tended to run weekly events for a couple of hours during the day and therefore the age profile again tended to be older, especially for those in rural areas. Two thirds of organisers said the greatest proportion of attendees at their events tended to be “retirement” age (aged 65+), with a quarter identifying the majority as being adult working age (18-64), and the remainder said most of their attendees were children, ie aged under 18.

As per last year, four out of five hubs said they had greater numbers of women attending than men or children – one in ten had greater numbers of men, and the same figure for greater numbers of children. One town based organiser, recognising that it could be more difficult to attract a younger audience (even though there were no other local free play based activities), successfully targeted schools to help get the word out to parents.

The ratio of volunteers to attendees again ranged considerably – from one up to nine - but the average ratio across hubs equated to one volunteer for approximately every six attendees to support engagement and inclusion. This was slightly lower than the previous year, which may reflect the ongoing problem of volunteer recruitment and retention; but it also indicates that people are engaging and interacting more without as much intervention required from organisers and their teams, who have developed a reciprocal understanding of community needs.

As evidenced in the table below, the majority of hub organisers felt that the main benefit for hub attendees was social interaction, which for several people blossomed into new friendships.

***“Fridays are busy and full of activity! Many of the kitchen volunteers were ESOL students here before, they have enjoyed the experience very much, and have made strong friendships between women of different cultures”***

***“It has got the older generations out of their homes and has stopped the isolation and helped with their mental health. Seeing new friendships build ... [this] has had a great impact on the most vulnerable in the community”***

As well as social interaction, there was a range of additional benefits to support residents, ranked by organisers in the table below. And the reality is that, as more people are increasingly facing complex concerns (socially, emotionally, physically and financially), being able to access a range of support is likely to become even more important at Warm Hubs.

How did people benefit from attending your event?

(Note: respondents were asked to rank their answers from the options below, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important)



Some groups used the funding to extend their opening hours, or to offer a wider range of activities (see below) or refreshments such as a light lunch. As previously mentioned, many organisers were also keen to collaborate with support services looking to use their venue as a platform for community outreach work. A popular example was Warwickshire North Place's "Health MOT" visits to hubs in its catchment area, where people could book a face to face session with a nurse to check blood pressure and overall health.

Despite increased demand, opening for longer hours did not necessarily equate to greater numbers - target audience preference and volunteer availability were key drivers. One organiser reduced their hub's opening hours to 12.30pm – 3.00pm and attendance still rose by 20%. Another community association, which ran daily events for families last winter, limited events to three per week to make this more manageable for volunteers while continuing to support those in need. They still delivered over 2,000 meals – 96% of last year's total over less than half the number of events.

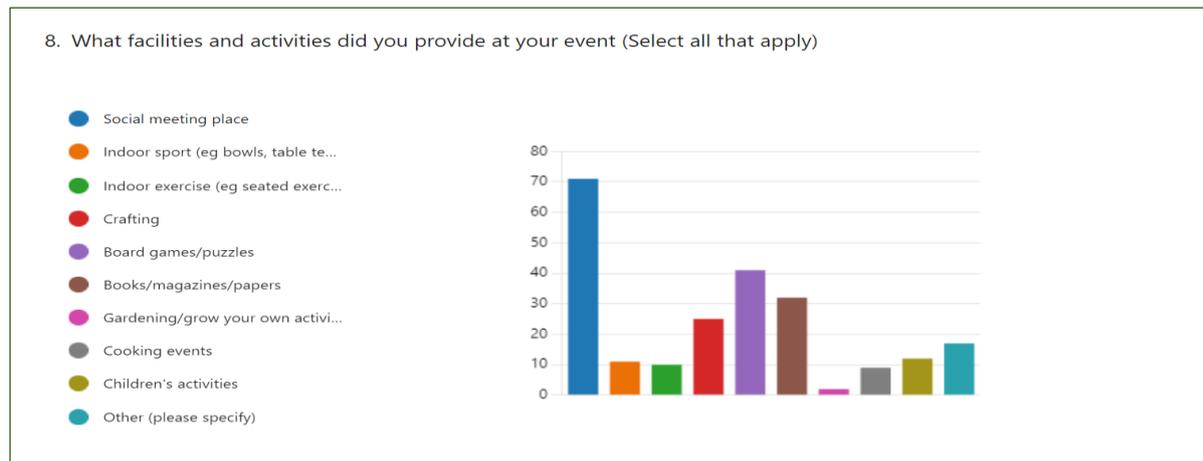
***“During the initial set up of the Warm Hub, hot drinks and biscuits were provided. The Warm Hub now provides a hot meal with protein, carbs and vegetables during the winter months ... [this year there were] more attendees with personal and health needs”***

***“[Last year] it was a much smaller scale project. We provided free soup but didn't offer the activities or supermarket surplus food to take away ... social contacts developed, help with budgeting, help with securing benefits, lots of free food to take away each week”***

***“[We] had more visits and provided more lunches ... it has definitely improved their socialising. Lots of great support from the Warm Hubs team when needed!”***

## 5. ACTIVITIES AT HUBS

In addition to many hubs expanding their refreshment provision this year, more activities for attendees were also introduced. This had also been featured at last September’s Winter Warm Hubs workshop, and several organisers felt that providing more “things to do” could encourage new attendees (particularly men) to come along to events. One organiser, reflecting the feelings of several others, commented that **“people appreciated having exercise and more purpose”**.



Last year’s most popular activities approximately doubled in popularity across the network this winter - games and puzzles were provided at nearly three in every five hubs, with nearly half offering reading materials (books, magazines and/or papers) and over a third featuring craft activities. Children’s activities were run by nearly one in five, a similar number to last winter.

Over a quarter of hubs organised indoor sports and exercise sessions - more than double the number engaging with these last year – including short mat bowls, table tennis, Tai Chi, indoor curling, seated Pilates and chair exercise. One rugby club based hub brought back its programme of seated and standing exercise, led by their resident physiotherapist, who also provided advice and consultations. At least 30 residents (two thirds of attendees) engaged each week, and weekly supermarket trips are now being planned to improve access to better food.

Other activities that ran at hubs included cooking classes, food hampers, gardening themed events (including specialist speakers), basic woodworking classes and ever popular bingo. Food themed events were popular, with one hub cooking 156 pancakes for Pancake Day! A few groups hosted basic maths skills sessions and different types of digital skills provision (see below).

***“The event [seated Pilates] was so successful that [we] received a grant from Think Active to provide the exercise sessions weekly ... [this] raised the average attendance from 20 to 35”***

***“The main difference [from last year] was the activity. We have a range of board games, bingo, singing, exercise and activities for those who wanted to join in - and most did, even from an armchair”***

*“I am sure there is a mental health benefit and a feeling of achievement when baking bread ... This year we have seen an increase in people going by calling in and also with a number of homeless people getting some support (food, drink, signposting, filling in online forms)”*

## 6. IMPACT OF HUBS

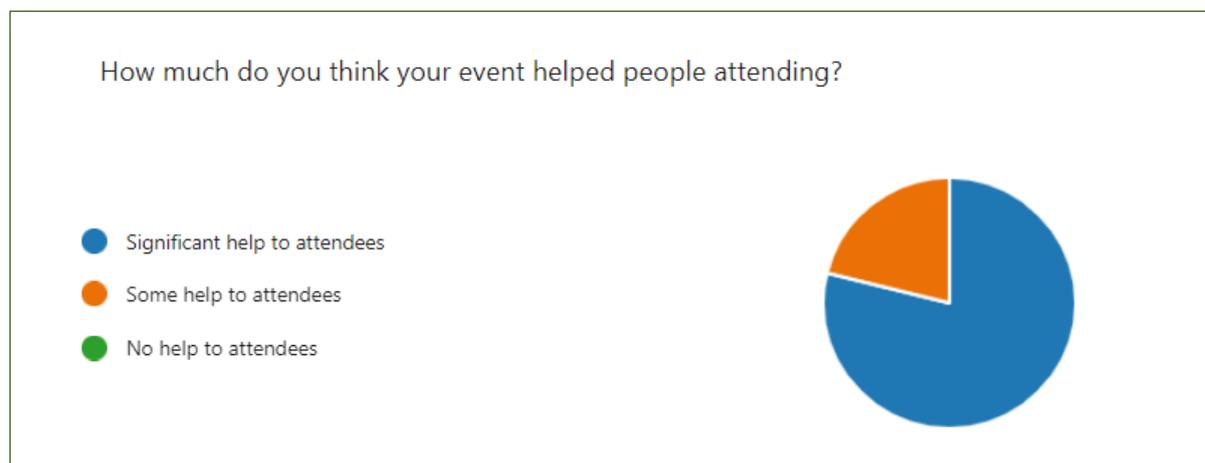
The positive impact of Winter Warm Hubs on communities was again evident to WRCC’s Warm Hubs team this year when visiting events and speaking to organisers, volunteers and attendees.

**The overwhelming majority of hub organisers – 97% of those who responded – felt they had achieved their objective during Winter 2023-24.**

As previously stated, hub organisers appeared to be clearer about what they wanted to achieve this winter, based on their learning and experience from the previous winter - and of course much longer for those WRCC accredited Warm Hubs and other independent hubs which had continued to run all year round.

Having gained greater understanding of their particular community’s needs over time, organisers and their teams were therefore able to focus more on providing appropriate levels of support, refreshments and activities, and attendance, engagement and impact were all reported as increasing overall this winter.

Organisers’ feedback showed that nearly four out of five felt their hub had significantly helped attendees (up from 62% last winter) with the remainder feeling that it had some impact.



Organisers again reported a wider impact on the community beyond those actually attending events (see table below), with over 40% feeling there was a significant impact – more than twice last winter’s figure of 17%. Half of all organisers thought there was some impact, and only half a dozen felt there was no impact.

This was at least partially due to a “ripple” effect in terms of people taking information away with them and sharing with others, and it also demonstrates the increasing positive awareness of Warm Hubs across the region.

What impact, if any, do you think your event has had on the wider community?

- Significant impact
- Some impact
- No impact



Almost all hub organisers (95%) felt their hubs had helped to improve attendees' wellbeing (a very slight decrease on last winter's 97%). This is a significant benefit for communities across the region and an important reason for viewing Warm Hubs as vital long term community assets.

Even though the majority of hubs had prioritised social interaction this winter, nearly six in every ten hubs confirmed they had still helped residents with cost of living support in 2023-24 (slightly reduced from 69% in 2022-23). Citizens Advice in particular has been collaborating particularly closely with Warm Hubs and this is planned to continue for the foreseeable future.

*“The Warm Hub is better known [this year] so more people are attending, creating a wider community of support/interactions”*

*“Fabulous initiative - once established could have a massive effect on the wider community”*

*“More people attending [the hub has helped with] health and wellbeing, and debt advice”*

## 7. NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2023-24

### (i) ONLINE TRAINING

Following requests from several hub organisers last winter, and feedback from last September's Warm Hubs workshop, WRCC organised a range of free online training courses linked to this year's funding provision. Hub organisers and volunteers were asked to sign up to three courses (or two if they were from existing Warm Hubs. 243 people attended or received course materials for seven free online training courses, run in collaboration with some of WRCC's community partners:

- **Community Energy Champions (National Energy Action)**
- **Introduction to Safeguarding (Halls Together)**
- **Risk Management (Halls Together)**
- **Volunteer Management (WCAVA)**
- **Introduction to Bid Writing (WCAVA)**
- **Introduction to First Aid (Warwickshire Hearts)**
- **Promoting your Hub (WRCC)**

Although a few hub organisers were initially reluctant to engage with training (citing reasons such as limited time availability of volunteers, significant existing experience etc), the majority felt that this was a positive initiative, which provided them and their teams of volunteers with useful and practical support.

***“The courses provided extra support and knowledge about hosting Warm Hubs ...  
The volunteers and myself are very grateful for the training that was provided”***

## **(ii) DIGITAL INCLUSION COURSES**

Many community groups, particularly in more rural areas, had previously requested some form of digital skills support to help those disadvantaged by being unable to access information and resources, make appointments online etc. A range of informal and more structured help was already being provided at some hubs, and Warwickshire Library Service had also liaised with WRCC regarding its “Tea and Tech” sessions being held for a second consecutive winter.

WCC authorised use of some of its Winter Warm Hubs funding to organise digital inclusion courses. These were run by tutors from Coventry and Warwickshire CDA, who were already running similar courses in North Warwickshire, and were due to start in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough under separate arrangements. Following discussions with community groups and key council contacts, seven courses were set up in Rugby and South Warwickshire.

The courses ran for between six to eight “drop in” sessions, with some attendees coming to all. Smaller sized classes helped tutors meet the wide range of needs and following the Learn My Way modular course was helpful for many of the participants. Most people were retired, with more women than men participating, although some younger people asked for support with CVs and job searches. Building people’s confidence was essential – some felt overwhelmed by digital technology, while others were surprised to find they knew more than they thought.

***“The sessions were very useful and have given me more confidence  
in using my iPad and iPhone, particularly using them safely,  
avoiding scams and not doing something I can’t undo!”***

Overall, advice on using smartphones was the most common request, followed by tablets and laptops. Attending sessions helped many people recognise the similarities between using different digital devices, rather than focusing on the differences.

Popular topics included downloading apps (particularly the NHS app); booking doctor’s appointments; using devices to keep in touch with family; doing online shopping; searching for jobs, writing and uploading CVs; avoiding scams and staying safe online; connecting to wifi; setting up, using and deleting emails; using Word; backing up information; calling/messaging via WhatsApp; using Facebook; and researching family trees.

The feedback from attendees and local organisers was very positive. Several would have liked to continue and felt that many more people could have benefited from attending. Importantly,

these courses also helped to support social interaction (both face to face and online) and to enable those affected by rising costs of living to access relevant advice, materials and websites. There could potentially be scope to run some form of digital support sessions at Warm Hubs going forwards.

***“It has been an absolute pleasure in hosting these sessions ... everyone felt part of the group, with each having their own aims supported. It has been a job well done!”***

***“Thanks for your great help to our library customers ... we've also made some changes to our book and audio collections after learning of the needs of some of those you helped”***

### **(iii) SLOW COOKING COURSES**

Although these courses were not funded as part of the Winter Warm Hubs initiative, it should still be mentioned in passing that the 11 hubs hosting slow cooking courses during Winter 2023-24 involved were very positive about the related outcomes for residents. The ease and convenience of slow cooking, being able to save money on heating and eating costs, and eating more healthily were all identified as key benefits, as were the small group size (12 people), knowledgeable demonstrations from the chefs, and friendly, supportive nature of the classes.

Nearly two thirds said they were cooking slightly more or much more as a result, with 47% using their slow cooker 2-3 times per week and a quarter using it 4 or more times per week. 27% felt a little more confident and 51% felt a lot more confident in cooking after attending the course and the majority of attendees – more than 8 in 10 of those who responded – said they would like to attend some type of cooking classes in the future.

***“[Attendees] really enjoyed having a go at the cooking, finding out about things that you could cook, which they did not know about before. Also, the money they could save with electricity and by buying fresh food, cheaper cuts of meat and being able to cook for a few days is all a great saving!”***

WRCC has received additional funding from WCC, and more slow cookers from Cadent, to support a further series of these courses at hubs during 2024-25. More information about slow cooking courses, recipes etc can be found [at WRCC's website](#).

## **8. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM ORGANISERS**

WRCC received a huge amount of feedback from hub organisers, and would like to thank all those who participated, plus their teams of volunteers, who supported communities during Winter 2023-24. Here are some additional suggestions and comments that may be helpful to share with other hubs, support services and organisations involved with hubs, as well as helping WRCC to continue to develop the Warm Hubs project.



## 9. NEXT STEPS

As a result of the project learning from this winter's initiative, WRCC is taking the following initial steps to support its existing Warm Hubs and potential new Warm Hubs moving forwards:

- Confirming project funding from Cadent to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 to more than double WRCC's current network of permanent accredited Warm Hubs from 14 to 30
- Potentially increasing the number of WRCC Warm Hubs slightly further, subject to demand and the availability of additional funding
- Focusing on providing additional support, including funding and an increased range of other member benefits, to this network of permanent all year round WRCC Warm Hubs to enable longer term development and sustainability. It is therefore unlikely that WRCC will run an expanded Winter Warm Hubs initiative in 2024-25, although community hubs can still receive an online free listing to promote their events
- Considering potential support for digital skills support sessions at Warm Hubs
- Continuing to run slow cooking sessions (related to the Warm Hubs project)
- Continuing to collaborate with other support services and organisations to support and promote the work of the Warm Hubs project in Warwickshire and Solihull

For more information about any of the above, visit [www.wrccrural.org.uk/warm-hubs-news](http://www.wrccrural.org.uk/warm-hubs-news) or email [warmhubs@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:warmhubs@wrccrural.org.uk). Or contact WRCC's Warm Hubs team on 01789 472616



**APPENDIX**  
**WINTER WARM HUBS NETWORK**  
**MEMBERS, WINTER 2023-24**  
**(WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL)**

All Saints and St Andrew's Churches, Bedworth  
Arley and St Michael's Community Centre  
Arley Methodist Church  
Arley Parish Council  
Atherstone Warm Hub (N Works Over 50s Club)  
Alderminster Village Hall  
Avon Dasset Community Benefit Society  
Baginton Warm Hub  
Bidford Warm Hub  
Bradby Club for Young People, Rugby  
British Gurkhas Veterans Association, Nuneaton  
Brownsover Community Association  
Burton Dasset Village Hall  
Camp Hill Parish Church  
Chelmsley Wood Town Council  
Cohort 4, Atherstone  
Coleshill Community Centre  
Combrook Warm Hub  
Dunchurch Community Library  
Escape Arts, Nuneaton  
Escape Arts, Stratford  
Great Alne Parish Council  
Graftons Village Hall  
Henley Community Library \*  
Hill Street Centre, Rugby \*  
Ilmington Village Hall  
Kenilworth Centre  
Kenilworth Warm Hub (St Francis's Church)  
Lantern Church, Bedworth  
Lavender Gardens, Stratford \*  
Lighthorne Heath Warm Hub  
Lillington Community Pantry  
Long Lawford Methodist Church  
Luddington Village Hall  
Marie Curie West Midlands Hospice, Solihull  
Mary Anne Evans Hospice, Nuneaton  
Meriden Warm Hub  
Myton Church  
Nelson Club and Institute, Stockton  
New Bilton Community Association  
New Life Church, Warwick  
Nuneaton Men and Women in Sheds

Old Meeting United Reform Church, Bedworth



Old Saltleians Rugby Club, Water Orton  
Open Door Café, Hampton Magna  
Parish of All Souls, Warton  
Pit Stop, Keresley End  
Phoenix Post Diagnosis Group, Nuneaton  
Polesworth Parish Council  
RBC Play Rangers  
RBL Community Hub and Cafe, Southam  
Ridge Lane Methodist Church  
Royal Shakespeare Company  
Rugby Warm Hub (Benn Partnership Centre)  
Salford Priors Warm Hub  
Shakespeare Hospice  
Shipston Warm Hub (SHWP)  
Shotteswell Warm Hub  
Snooty Pooch CIC, Solihull  
Southam Church (Graham Adams Centre)  
St Andrew's Church, Rugby  
St James the Great Church, Snitterfield  
St John the Baptist Church, Hillmorton  
St Peter's Church, Kineton  
St Nicholas Church, Alcester  
Stockingford Community Centre  
Stockton Parish Council  
Stour Valley Stitchers  
Stratford Warm Hub (Municipal Charities)  
Stratford Youth Collective  
Studley Sports and Social Club  
Studley Village Hall  
Summit Room, Solihull  
Sydni Centre, Sydenham  
Ufton Parish Council  
Venture House, Stratford Town Trust  
Warwick Methodist Church  
Wellesbourne Warm Hub  
Wembrook Community Centre, Nuneaton  
White Hart Community Groups, Atherstone  
Whitnash Methodist Church  
Windmill Sports and Social Club (FoW)  
Wolverton Church Hall  
Wolvey Warm Hub  
Wootton Wawen Parish Council, Wootton Hall  
(\* denotes solely digital skills course venue)