



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	20 th November 2025				
Title of report	VCSE Support Over Winter				
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations		Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	Information only (No recommendations)	x
Reporting Officer & email	Jackie Jeffrey (Citizens Advice Bureau) jackiejeffrey@cabshropshire.org.uk, Fran Romberg (Shropshire Council) fran.romberg@shropshire.gov.uk				
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People		Joined up working		x
	Mental Health	x	Improving Population Health		X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity		Working with and building strong and vibrant communities		x
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)		x
What inequalities does this report address?	Hardship and poverty				

1. Executive Summary & report

Support available for communities in Shropshire over the 2025 winter period can be divided into the following categories:

- **Community-Based Support and Warm Spaces** – VCSE organisations will be offering special Christmas events to combat loneliness over the winter period. Many VCSE organisations are taking part in the Warm Spaces scheme, offering their building as a warm place for people to visit for free as well as providing activities.

Children and young people receiving free school meals can find support through the Holiday and Activities Fund with many VCSE providers taking part.

- **Household and Financial Support** – Food banks will be operating and usually are very busy over the winter period. Ensure you are aware of the referral scheme that the food bank in your local area uses. Visit <https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/> for a full list of food banks and community food programmes, some may be providing Christmas meals such as Hands Together Ludlow.

Community Resource, NILS and Marches Energy Agency can provide support in the form of advice, loans and grants for households struggling with bills, keeping their home warm or buying essential items.

- **Health and Wellbeing** - Community Transport offers are available for anyone struggling to leave their home or reach health appointments. Age UK can provide support for older people including shopping and befriending.
- **Mental Health** – VCSA Mental Health Forum will provide an update on services running over the Christmas period for anyone experiencing mental health struggles or crisis.

It's important to note that many services work alongside or are supported by the public sector. Additionally, many further services may change or be added as time goes on. The VCSA newsletter is important to keep an eye on for updates on additional services or changes.

2. Recommendations

To note the contents of the report and presentation

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal

-

Financial implications

-

Climate Change Appraisal as applicable

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Where else has the paper been presented?

System Partnership Boards

Voluntary Sector

Other

List of Background Papers

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead

Jackie Jeffrey, Chief Exec, Citizens Advice Shropshire

Appendices