

# Let's Make Winter Warmer

## A little support goes a long way!



### Open a Warm Welcome Space

- Use an existing space: council office, church vestry, village hall, library
- Offer free tea/coffee, board games, magazines, charging points, free wifi
- Staff with volunteers, councillors or community members
- Advertise with printed posters, social media and word-of-mouth
- Schedule warm hub days for Jan–March and print the timetable now



Bonus tip: Ask local cafés or supermarkets to donate tea/coffee

Watch out for Warm Hub Funding through your local authority or CVC



### Run a Coat & Blanket Swap

- Set up a rail or table in a public space (hall, school, even a bus stop)
- Invite residents to “take what they need / leave what they can”
- Collect warm items: coats, scarves, gloves, blankets
- Use local noticeboards, school newsletters and online groups to promote



Bonus tip: Partner with schools, scouts or churches for collections

**Small actions from councils can have a big impact on winter wellbeing.**



Add a “hot water bottle drop” box



### Distribute a Winter Support Leaflet

- Create a simple 1-page flyer including:
  - Local foodbanks & support charities
  - Warm spaces map or list
  - Citizens Advice/welfare support
  - Mental health & crisis helplines
- Print in-house or ask libraries, schools or churches to help distribute
- Share digitally and pre-schedule key winter messages on social media



Bonus tip: Add a QR code to link to online information and services

Include a list of emergency contact numbers for essential services (eg: power cuts; water)





Offer a “Festive Favour” – one small ask per household to help a neighbour

### Launch a Good Neighbour Scheme

- Identify residents who may need:  
A friendly phone call  
Help with errands, dog walking, or snow clearing  
A lift to appointments
- Recruit and match local volunteers
- Use a buddy system, WhatsApp group, or neighbourhood link-up

 Bonus tip: Link with PCSOs, local churches, and GP surgeries to reach vulnerable residents

Send a “Winter Wellbeing” card to isolated residents.  
Include a mini emergency contact form

### Coordinate Surplus Food Collections

- Contact local supermarkets and shops for daily/weekly surplus
- Connect with local volunteers or foodbank networks for pickup
- Distribute from a central hub (community centre, school, town hall)
- Provide info on when and where food is available (Facebook, WhatsApp)

 Bonus tip: Share a weekly “Food Alert” post online or in WhatsApp groups

Add a “Bring & Share” biscuit tin appeal. Distribute donations to vulnerable residents

## Spreading comfort & care this Winter!

### How to Get Started

-  Choose 1 project to trial in October
-  Identify 2 local partners (e.g. supermarket, school, charity)
-  Use Facebook, WhatsApp, noticeboards for quick promotion
-  Assign one councillor or volunteer to lead each mini-project

### More Quick Ideas

- Host a Community Christmas Cuppa: 1-hour social in a hall
- Organise a Gift Re-Give Table: gently-used toys or books
- Assemble Winter Wellbeing Pack: tea bags, gloves, info flyer
- Add a Toiletries Basket: soap, shampoo, toothpaste for those in need
- Coordinate Carols & Cake: small local choir or playlist and tea

All community councils in Wales need specific legal powers that enable them to provide various services and support for their local communities. For advice and guidance, councils may wish to contact their One Voice Wales Development Officer.



[One Voice Wales Website](https://www.onevoicewales.wales)



[CoLC@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:CoLC@onevoicewales.wales)



<https://bit.ly/3KYHftK>