

Sheffield Cost of Living Response: how Businesses can help

The scale of the challenge

As the cost-of-living crisis deepens, people in the UK are facing increased living costs (heating, food, transport, rent, etc.) while wages and benefits remain stagnant. Those that were 'just getting by' have already made all the savings they can and are increasingly relying on community organisations and foodbanks just to put food on the table. With budgets squeezed, community organisations are facing a triple hit – spiralling costs, increased demand for services and reduced donations.

How can you and your people help?

Whilst businesses alone can't solve the crisis, and we appreciate some of you will also be experiencing hardship, we know that businesses sit at the heart of their communities and many of you have asked how you can support our people, charities, and communities.

Business in the Community, Voluntary Action Sheffield and Sheffield City Council are working together to identify key needs across the city. The following sets out some of the ways in which businesses can support communities, charities and their own employees. A regularly updated document is available [here](#) too.

Sheffield City Council information about cost of living support: www.sheffield.gov.uk/costofliving

Communities

Who	What	How	When
Sheffield Foodbank Campaign	Food Banks are experiencing unprecedented demand and reduced donations. Donating money is quick and easy and allows foodbanks to buy culturally appropriate food that reflect the needs of their communities. You can donate to the Sheffield Foodbank Network by bank transfer, cheque or Paypal using the details provided on their website. Or you can donate food or goods to your local food bank.	Click here	Anytime
SYCF Cost of Living Fund	South Yorkshire's Community Foundation has set up a Sheffield Cost of Living fund to provide grants for organisations, including food banks, that are supporting local people with the cost of living crisis. You can donate to the Cost-of-Living fund via their JustGiving page.	JustGiving page	

The Sheffield 1000	The Sheffield 1000 charity is aiming to get 1000 people donating £1 a week. This is then distributed to local charities and good causes. You can sign up to donate and nominate a charity on their website.		
Help as a private landlord	The Private Rented Solutions team in Sheffield City Council provides a free, dedicated service matching tenants on low incomes to private sector housing and are always looking for more private landlords to work with. They offer rent guarantee and damage liability schemes and other ongoing support to make it easier for landlords to rent to families and households who need homes.	Find out more here	

Charities

Who	What	How	When
Baby Basics is a volunteer-led project, supporting new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby.	Baby Basics are experiencing a 21% increase in demand from last winter and are urgently in need of cots, infant beds, and prams . They are accepting both second-hand and new donations but will not take mattresses. Launch a workplace campaign to encourage your people to donate, a poster is attached to help.	Click here to find out more Please call Baby Basics before donating big items as they have limited storage. If you are struggling with delivery, we might be able to help.	Now
	Baby Basics need business volunteers to sort donations . They can accommodate up to teams of 8 for an afternoon.	Email Katie for more information katie@sheffieldbusinesstogether.org.uk	Now

Who	What	How	When
	Organise a workplace collection of essentials for babies and mothers. Include donations of nappies (particularly size 5 and 6), baby wash, baby wipes, disposable bags, sanitary towels, etc.	Click here to find out more	Now
SCCC is a charity working with statutory agencies in Sheffield to provide a network of support for mainly older people, their carers and families	They are asking individuals to make blankets and send them to SCCC before Christmas to keep an elderly person warm this winter.	Click here to find out more	Donate before 25 th of November 2022
Burngreave Foodbank is a foodbank which is part of the Trussell Trust network and is in the S6 postcode. They provide 3 days of emergency food parcels and additional support to those in their community.	Burngreave Foodbank are looking for business volunteers to support their Xmas food bank collection. Every December they do a food collection at the Tesco Extra on Savile Street. This is a major source of both staples and Christmas treats which they give out in the run-up to Christmas. They are looking for businesses/community groups who would be prepared to 'adopt' one of the days of the Christmas Tesco collection and enrol volunteers to fill the day (or half a day). Food bank staff will be on hand to oversee and support volunteers. They can accommodate 4-5 volunteers at any time (due to store restrictions) so a maximum of 6 volunteers per day if they are doing the full day (allowing for breaks), or 8 - 10 volunteers if they are each doing a half day (4 hours). Volunteers are given shopping lists to hand out to customers as they enter the store and collect the donations when they leave.	Email here to reserve a space	The dates of the collection will be 1-3 December 2022, from 9-5.
Various	Share your professional skills. To help charities with the strategic and operational challenges they are facing they need support with fund raising/bid writing,	Pledge here	Now

Who	What	How	When
	marketing, business development, funding stream diversification, financial management and other professional skills.		
<p>SACHMA is a charity that supports the BAME community, delivering specialist services to people in need of assistance with their health and social care needs.</p> <p>An ongoing relationship with a charity that has a 34-year track record in the City</p> <p>A place to advertise jobs and services to a much wider and more diverse cohort</p> <p>Recognition in all materials, at our Annual General Meeting and on social media for the support named businesses, have provided</p> <p>An opportunity for businesses owners and their staff to contribute to the support of under-served communities in Sheffield</p>	<p>SACHMA are hoping to open a welcoming space 1-2 days a week on Duke Street (S2). The space will provide a warm meal, activities, and companionship to any member of the community.</p> <p>Meals would cost volunteers around £4 to make and they can accommodate 40 people on any given day.</p>	<p>Click here to email for more information</p>	
	<p>The Social Cafe and Lunch Club every Thursday based on the Wicker, which has around regular 45 attendees, provide a range of activities and excellent Caribbean meals.</p> <p>To make the Social Cafe more accessible SACHMA are needing a van to offer transport to even more of the community.</p> <p>The van can be on a long-term loan basis, needs no drivers, 9 seats maxim and would not need to be suitable for disabled use.</p>	<p>Click here</p> <p>Or here to email for more information</p>	
	<p>To ensure everyone gets a meal this Christmas, SACHMA is providing Christmas lunch at their base on the Wicker.</p> <p>They need donations of food, decorations and presents for largely adult service users.</p> <p>On the day they will need volunteers to decorate the space, cook, and wash up, greet the visitors and bring some Christmas cheer.</p>	<p>Email here to find out more information</p>	
	<p>To improve their reach in Sheffield they needing high-level skills in both marketing and PR, to generate a larger online presence and fundraising.</p> <p>They would love to partner with a business who can provide: Advise</p>	<p>Email here to find out more information</p>	

Who	What	How	When
<p>SACMHA is also a training organisation. If businesses wanted to better inform staff in respect of issues of diversity, delivered in a positive, safe, and solution-focused way, SACMHA can offer this too.</p>	<p>and support with marketing; A cohort of volunteers or Will fundraise on their behalf or adopt them as their charity of the year.</p>		

Supporting your people

One of the most tangible and direct ways businesses can help alleviate the cost-of-living crisis is to pay employees fairly to keep them afloat and reduce reliance on statutory and community services. Below are other ways that businesses are supporting their people that might be of interest.

- Paying the living wage
- Set up a cost-of-living task force to understand the needs of your employees
- Consider a one -off cost of living payments
- Signpost employees to the help available across the city, see information below
- Establish an emergency loan service for staff
- Champion equality and asses who is being impacted
- Run financial and wellbeing sessions
- Encourage employees to receive help by breaking down perceptions of shame and stigma
- Provide free food or a breakfast
- Pay untaken leave

Domestic Abuse:

Economic instability can increase the incidents of domestic abuse. The Employers Initiative Against Domestic Abuse <https://www.eida.org.uk/> have joined forces with Business in the Community and Public Health England to produce a toolkit for employers <https://www.eida.org.uk/resources/employer-toolkit>

Locally, support services and info can be found here <https://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/> which has a page about employees <https://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-and-employees/>

Key links to cost of living support

Sheffield City Council information about cost of living support: www.sheffield.gov.uk/costofliving

Citywide information if you're worried about money: <https://sheffieldmoneysupport.co.uk/>

Welcoming Places map: <https://www.vas.org.uk/sheffield-living-crisis-map-of-support/>