



Welcoming Spaces Criteria, Bristol

This document explains the One City approach to Welcoming Spaces, and how you can register your Welcoming Space activity as part of our One City network.

A Welcoming Space is a place of connection that is already established in a community, where people can meet up socialise and hang out. Welcoming Spaces are open to everyone, providing a warm welcome to people from all backgrounds and circumstances. They are places where people can gather to relax, come together as a community, and access support. Welcoming Spaces are where people can support one another and find solutions to shared concerns.

The idea for Welcoming Spaces came from a regular meeting of community workers from across Bristol, held by the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees. One meeting, held in Spring 2022, was dedicated to discussing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the citizens of Bristol and what a co-produced response between Bristol City Council and community and voluntary organisations might look like. Initially referred to as 'Warm Spaces' they have evolved to become 'Welcoming Spaces'. In developing the idea of Welcoming Spaces, all partners agreed that our response must promote dignity, respect and equity. Welcoming Spaces are about people coming together as equals while also being able to access vital support.

Our goal is to develop a network of Welcoming Spaces which will be ready for the public to access from October 2022, and available to people wishing to use them over the winter months, until 31 March 2023. We are prioritising areas where the rising cost of living will have the most impact, but also want to invite communities and organisations across Bristol to be part of the network. Details of how to register your activity can be found at the end of this document. All of Bristol's Welcoming Spaces will be marked on a map that can be accessed through the Bristol City Council website, so that citizens can see what is in their area.

The aim of this document is to set out our approach to provide a consistent **minimum** offer across the city. Each Welcoming Space will have a range of activities available over and above the minimum criteria.

All Welcoming Spaces will operate within the agreed principles of:

- Social justice, equity and inclusion.
- Asset Based Community Development. This is about supporting and encouraging citizen action and doing 'with' people. It is about building on what already exists.
- Responding to immediate need with support, while also building community resilience.
- Learning as we go.

Welcoming spaces are broken down into three tiers:

- **Tier 1:** Welcoming Spaces that meet an agreed list of essential criteria including providing public access to: community spaces, Wi-Fi, activities, cost of living support. They are physically accessible to Disabled people. **These are spaces like community centres which are open to the public much of the time and will already offer a range of activities.**
- **Tier 2:** Welcoming Spaces that cannot meet all the tier one criteria, with a specific list of activities. Their opening times might be restricted, and they may focus on communities of interest (such as young people, young families) rather than being open to everyone.
- **Tier 3:** Welcoming activities might extend the offer of a Welcoming Space by being based in their premises but may also happen elsewhere. These may include homework support, walking groups, knitting, games or film nights.

The characteristics for each tier are listed below:

	Description	Essential/minimum criteria	Other types of activity that may be available
Tier 1	<p>These spaces are seen as ‘community living rooms’, where people can spend time and socialise. They offer an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources, join a range of activities, and/or seek advice and support relating to the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Example of spaces: Community Centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources, join a collective activity for wellbeing and/or seek advice and support relating to the cost-of-living crisis. • Is a place of connection already established in communities. • When necessary and appropriate (i.e., enabling inclusion) the Welcoming Space can provide an online activity (this might be aimed at a person who cannot visit the physical space but still requires connection to community and support). • Offers an extended opening time, including evenings and weekends and enable accessibility to a wide range of people. • Provides access to electrical charging points for phones, scooters, laptops and other electrical equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to advice and mental health support and signposting to organisations. • Community activities, including groups and clubs, film nights, homework clubs and community meals. • Food provision.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with city-wide organisations to make cost of living support available, such as access to advice and emotional wellbeing services. • Is community led with “welcomers” that share skills, resources, and knowledge among residents. • Is physically accessible to Disabled people. • Is inclusive and non-stigmatising. • Reaches out to citizens who cannot go in person or join online. 	
<p>Tier 2</p>	<p>A space that cannot meet all the essential criteria of tier one. The opening times are more restricted. They are open to all but may have some activity restricted to a specific community.</p> <p>Examples of spaces: Faith places, Children Centres, Care Homes etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources, join a collective activity for wellbeing and/or seek advice and support relating to the cost-of-living crisis. • Is a place of connection already established in communities. • Is physically accessible to Disabled people. • Is inclusive and non-stigmatising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community activity including groups and clubs. • Food provision.

<p>Tier 3 – Welcoming Activity</p>	<p>These are community activities which are open and welcoming.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers an opportunity for people to come together, share/use resources, join a collective activity for wellbeing and/or seek advice and support relating to the cost-of-living crisis. • Is inclusive and non-stigmatising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer support. • Walking groups. • Homework support. • Knitting. • Games. • Film nights. • An activity happening in neighbourhoods. • Communication platform for example, Facebook or WhatsApp <p><i>(Some of these activities can happen online)</i></p>
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If you have any queries, please email: bristolcostofliving@bristol.gov.uk