**Invitation to participate in a development programme to set up a Social Supermarket service in Ballymoney District Electoral Area (DEA)**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is inviting Expressions of Interest from organisations interested in participating in a development programme with a view to being able to bid for future funding to deliver a Social Supermarket Programme that would cover all or part of **Ballymoney District Electoral Area (DEA).**

**What is a Social Supermarket?**

Social Supermarkets offer a longer term and sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than short term crisis interventions. They provide members, who are struggling financially and meet certain criteria, with the opportunity to shop in a reduced cost food shop for a set period of time alongside engaging in wraparound support including advice on budgeting, managing debt, benefits advice, healthy eating, training and signposting to other services. It is a membership programme where members pay a weekly membership subscription to shop for a variety of fresh, frozen & store cupboard food products. The learning from pilot projects is that, while the food aid is important, the wraparound support offered is at least equally as important.

**What is the current Social Supermarket provision in Causeway Coast and Glens?**

The current provision in Causeway Coast and Glens is varied, with 2 well established social supermarket models, including one of the original DfC pilot projects, providing a service across a significant part of the borough. Council receives annual funding from the Department for Communities through a Social Supermarket (SSM) Support Programme and is keen to ensure that a borough wide social supermarket service is available.

Gaps have been identified in coverage in some areas where it is not feasible for residents to travel to the existing 2 social supermarkets.

In order to address this gap in provision Council is now inviting expressions of interest from organisations that would be interested in exploring the feasibility of setting up and operating a social supermarket in Ballymoney DEA.

Council is interested to hear from organisations that may currently have the necessary capacity to deliver a social supermarket service and also from organisations that might not currently have the necessary capacity but who would be interested in working towards it, either on their own or in partnership with others.

**What will the programme involve?**

Council will deliver a development support programme which will involve cover all aspects of setting up and operating a social supermarket, including governance, policies and procedures, logistics, assessing needs and developing tailored support plans for clients. The programme would also look at the financial feasibility for your organisation. At the end of the programme, interested organisations will have the opportunity to bid for funding to operate a social supermarket, subject to Council receiving continued funding through the SSM Support Programme from DfC.

**What will be expected of interested organisations?**

Interested organisations will be encouraged to work towards the DfC criteria/ standards for social supermarkets which include the following:

1. the participant is experiencing food insecurity and has a low disposable income;
2. a financial transaction takes place (membership or donation);
3. that it is a time bound intervention; (usually 3- 6 months)
4. that an initial needs assessment is carried out and a personal tailored support plan is created for each participant;
5. reduced price food is provided;
6. one to one mentoring is provided for participants to support them to achieve their goals;
7. a range of wrap around supports such as money management, debt advice, benefits advice, healthy eating, low cost cooking classes, skills and employment training, mental health and wellbeing support etc are provided either by the organisation directly or are accessible in the area and clients are signposted to them and supported to access them. Participants will access some or all of these supports depending on the initial needs identified.

Council is keen to encourage collaborative approaches where interested organisations could partner with another organisation if they are not delivering all the elements themselves to provide this full package of support.

**What should you do next?**

If your organisation is interested in exploring the set up of a Social Supermarket in this area then please complete the attached Expression of Interest form and return to louise.scullion@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk by **5pm Tuesday 29th April 2025.**

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In the first instance Council officers will meet with interested organisations to discuss the services they currently provide and how they might work towards developing a social supermarket model.

If you would like to discuss it before submitting an Expression of Interest then contact Louise Scullion, Community Development Manager at louise.scullion@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk or telephone 07725958141.

**Please Note:** This Expression of Interest (EoI) is to allow Council to guage the level of interest in operating a Social Supermarket service in this areas and to allow Council to develop a support programme to allow interested organisations to explore the feasibility of doing so. Subject to Council receiving SSM Support Programme funding from DfC, organisations that participate in the development programme will have the opportunity to bid for future funding to operate a social supermarket. Participation in the programme does not guarantee the availability of funding.

**Social Supermarket - Ballymoney District Electoral Areas (DEA)**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation Name:** |  |
| **Contact:** |  |
| **Position in Organisation:** |  |
| **Email:**  |  |
| **Telephone:**  |  |
| **Address:** |  |

**Please tell us about the services that your organisation currently provides.**

**How would your organisation plan to deliver a social supermarket service?**

Please refer to the guidance document for details of what is expected (reduced cost food, one to one mentoring and wraparound support services).

**If your organisation isn’t in a position to currently deliver all the elements of a social supermarket service are there other organisations that you could partner with?**

Please tell us who these organisations are and if you have approached them yet.

Please tick all the electoral wards within Ballymoney DEA that your organisation would anticipate serving (map of Electoral Wards in Causeway Coast and Glens attached at Annex A):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ballymoney East |  |
| Ballymoney North |  |
| Ballymoney South |  |
| Route |  |
| Dunloy |  |
| Cloughmills |  |
| Rasharkin |  |

In order to be eligible to participate organisations must meet the following basic criteria:

* Be committed to Equal Opportunities in terms of organisational policies and the delivery of services to those being served or represented;
* Have a constitution / governing document that has been adopted at a public meeting showing clearly defined purposes that are for the public benefit in line with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
* Be registered with, or in the process of registering with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland;
* Be able without prejudice to the obligations of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), to demonstrate regard to the desirability of promoting Good Relations between persons of different religious belief, political belief, political opinion or racial group;
* Have appropriate and adequate insurance cover in place.

**I confirm that I have authorisation to submit this application on behalf of the above organisation.**

**Signature 1:**

**Print Name:**

**Position in Organisation:**

**Date:**

**Signature 2:**

**Print Name:**

**Position in Organisation:**

**Date:**

Annex A: Electoral Wards in Causeway Coast and Glens

