

Gas, Energy and Advice Fund (Centres For Warmth) Guidance [Ref GEACFW0525]

In collaboration with Cadent, Harrow Giving is facilitating the Gas, Energy and Advice Fund which aims to promote gas safety awareness through community events, activities, and advice to Harrow residents.

The fund will provide services which will enhance safety, efficiency, and well-being in households while fostering community engagement.

This fund is part of Cadent's Centre For Warmth programme, which supports people who are living in vulnerable situations keeping them warm, safe, and connected. The project is based on identifying and partnering with local charities in areas of high deprivation, fuel poverty, and risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, who are located close to areas where they are carrying out mains replacement work.

The centres should foster community engagement, tackle loneliness in an accessible venue, supporting the most vulnerable groups within the community (i.e. debt, mental health, low-income, marginalised groups etc.).

See more about Centres for Warmth here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpRK2KysCvM>

Fund Aims

A core area of funding we have focused on is the issuing of advice, tackling loneliness and isolation, and raising awareness of gas safety.

All projects should do at least one of the following:

- To deliver conversations to individuals to improve awareness of the benefits and route to register to the Priority Services Register (PSR).
 - The Priority Services Register is a free service provided by energy suppliers and network operators to help people needing additional support.
- To register individuals onto the PSR when eligible and when the individual has provided consent
- To deliver home energy efficiency advice e.g.; hints and tips on how to save energy
- Income maximisation services (support with applying for benefits). To provide income maximisation advice, helping individuals to identify and apply for previously unclaimed benefits and manage their income- including referrals to partner agencies.
- Issue carbon monoxide safety advice through the advice partner
- Issue audible CO alarms where appropriate.
- To coordinate and deliver activities focussed on slow cooking - promoting the potential health benefits, efficiency and affordability benefits of slow cooking
- Referral for free gas safety checks

Project Requirements

All funded partners will need to:

- attend carbon monoxide (CO) training, delivered by Cadent.
 - *It is an online session between 60-90 minutes, delivered as a group session.*
- offer the service at the same location and times throughout your project (allowing for holiday breaks)
- be available throughout your projects offering for walk-ins, and be ready/able to offer sufficient support
- distribute leaflets and promotional material
- be happy to be known as a “Centre for Warmth” and listed on the Cadent website - <https://cadentgas.com/centres-for-warmth-locations>
- work with Advice Partner - Harrow Giving will also be funding an Advice Partner, an organisation that would hire a specialist Advice worker, who would be available to attend organisation activities to provide information and advice on energy/gas. This could either be 1:1 or group sessions.

Voluntary Action Harrow will be helping to co-ordinate project requirements.

Support Provided by Cadent

- Provide carbon monoxide energy efficiency and PSR training.
- Attend community events or activities, such as coffee mornings. They can provide additional information about the support related to gas safety and the priority services register.
- Cadent has access to expert partners such as the [Green Doctors](#) who can offer energy efficiency support upon request.

Optional: National Energy Action (NEA) also provide FUNDED PLACES to non-commercial organisations based in England and Wales (such as local authorities, housing associations, advice agencies etc). Learners must also be frontline staff or volunteers who encounter and provide advice to those in or at risk of fuel poverty.

The NEA training course is more in-depth and something they would apply for themselves or with your support.

Items for Participants

In addition, the following can be provided to participants of your programme.

- Slow cookers (for providing slow cooker courses)
 - These are only available to organisations delivering slow cooking sessions or some kind of slow cooking education (eg; food tasting sessions, demonstrations with a follow-up once they give away the slow cooker or working with a partner who can deliver sessions on their behalf).
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- CO alarms can be left with customers living in vulnerable situations, this can include; Elderly, disabled, those with children under 5 or those that would not be able to fund or access to purchase an alarm.

These items come directly from Cadent, and will not interfere with your fund budget.

Eligibility

You need to be applying as:

- a constituted not-for-profit organisation (company limited by guarantee, community interest company, registered charity, co-operative, unincorporated organisation)
- with a minimum of 2 unrelated trustees / directors
- with a bank account in the name of the organisation

The activities which you are applying for funding for need to be legally charitable and benefit Harrow residents.

We will only fund organisations that have a track record of working in Harrow.

Organisations can apply to be the Advice Partner as well as a Centre for Warmth. Two separate applications will need to be submitted.

Activity Period

Your project must start by September 2024 and end in March 2026 and run for the full duration of this period.

Monitoring - Reporting on the grant

You will need to report back to Harrow Giving quarterly

#	Monitoring period	Deadline to receive report
1	Programme start – 30 th Sep 2024	10 th Oct 2024
2	1 st Oct 24 – 31 st Dec 24	10 th Jan 2025
3	1 st Jan 25 – 31 st Mar 25	10 th Apr 2025
4	1 st Apr 25 – 30 th June 25	10 th July 2025
5	1 st Jul 25 – 30 th Sep 25	10 th Oct 2025
6	1 st Oct 25 - 31 st Dec 25	10 th Jan 2026
7	1 st Jan 26 – 31 st Mar 26	10 th Apr 2026

What will we ask? (subject to possible change)

- Number of people attending your activity
- Percentage of people who are new to activities
- Description of additional characteristics and demographics
- Number of volunteers involved

- A case study

In addition, you will need to record the following (where relevant)

- Priority Services Register (PSR) conversations
- PSR Registrations
- Energy Efficiency advice (this can be done through Hosting the advice worker from a partner organisation)
- Income maximisation services (support with applying for benefits)
- Carbon monoxide awareness
- CO alarms
- Slow Cooker Provisions (if providing slow cooker classes)
- Referral for free gas safety checks (optional)

We can help and support you with completing the monitoring form.

We will also be creating a public list of the grants awarded and to which organisation and for what.

Amount Available

Organisations can apply for up to £20,000.

The total fund pot is £240,000.

What can the funding be used for?

- People – staffing and volunteer costs associated with delivering the work you are applying for
- Communications - marketing and advertising costs associated with promoting messages for this work
- Equipment – any equipment you need to deliver this work that is not already in your budget
- Resources – any project activity costs needed for your team to do this work
- Overheads – direct additional costs (e.g., increased centre costs)
- Transport – for individuals on low incomes who have no other way to get to the centre

Deadline

10am, Tue 25th June

How To Apply

Please send a completed application to: grants@harrowgiving.org.uk

We will aim to inform you if you have been successful within two weeks of the deadline.

Application Support

If you need support with completing the application, please email Voluntary Action Harrow - contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk

Other Funding Available

Voluntary Action Harrow has compiled a list of other funding available. This document will be updated on a regular basis so please keep the document link saved.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aroa5KIVQr04gaHEoVwmv2AhoO_mOXNOG7PPAEj5as/e/dit?usp=sharing

About Us

Cadent

Cadent are the UK's largest gas distribution network. They manage a network of more than 80,000 miles of pipes, which transport gas to 11 million customers. Over a 30-year period, they have been tasked with upgrading the UK's gas infrastructure - replacing existing iron gas pipes with new plastic pipes.

Alongside this work, they have been awarded funding from the energy regulator Ofgem to support the local communities they serve.

<https://cadentgas.com/>

Harrow Giving

Harrow Giving is a local charity that funds small local projects to make a positive difference in the lives of Harrow residents. Harrow Giving is a trading name of Harrow Together (registered charity no. 1167770) and is administered by Voluntary Action Harrow Co-operative.

www.harrowgiving.org.uk