



**Fairness & Wellbeing
Commission**

The Social Isolation Alliance

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Social Isolation Alliance



Background

In 2019 the Social Isolation and Loneliness Alliance (SIA) was formally established after Cabinet approval with DMBC.

Following its establishment, Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust (DCLT) was democratically elected by the members of the Alliance to serve as the lead organisation.

The role of the lead organisation was to support the members within the group to reduce loneliness in Doncaster. This included support with funding applications, group set up, and grant allocation of funds.

In 2020 and in response to COVID, the priorities of the SIA changed, and support focussed on humanitarian aid through the devolvement of foodbank funding. During this time, £49,208 in funding to assist those in need was devolved.

Following this, and to support VCFS organisations further, a robust grant funding model was developed in 2021, along with a panel to adjudicate applications, allowing VCFS organisations to access the following funding streams.

Funds successfully devolved

**Humanitarian Fund
2020 –2021
£324,645**

The fund was specifically designed to support organisations to grow and sustain provisions which tackled inequalities, social exclusion, social isolation and loneliness, and provided humanitarian support to the most vulnerable and the clinically extremely vulnerable in Doncaster during COVID.

**Emergency Winter
Fund 2021 –2022
£45,000**

The grant was established to provide support to VCFS organisations to help the clinically extremely vulnerable, who had no existing networks, with practical support during winter 2021/22.

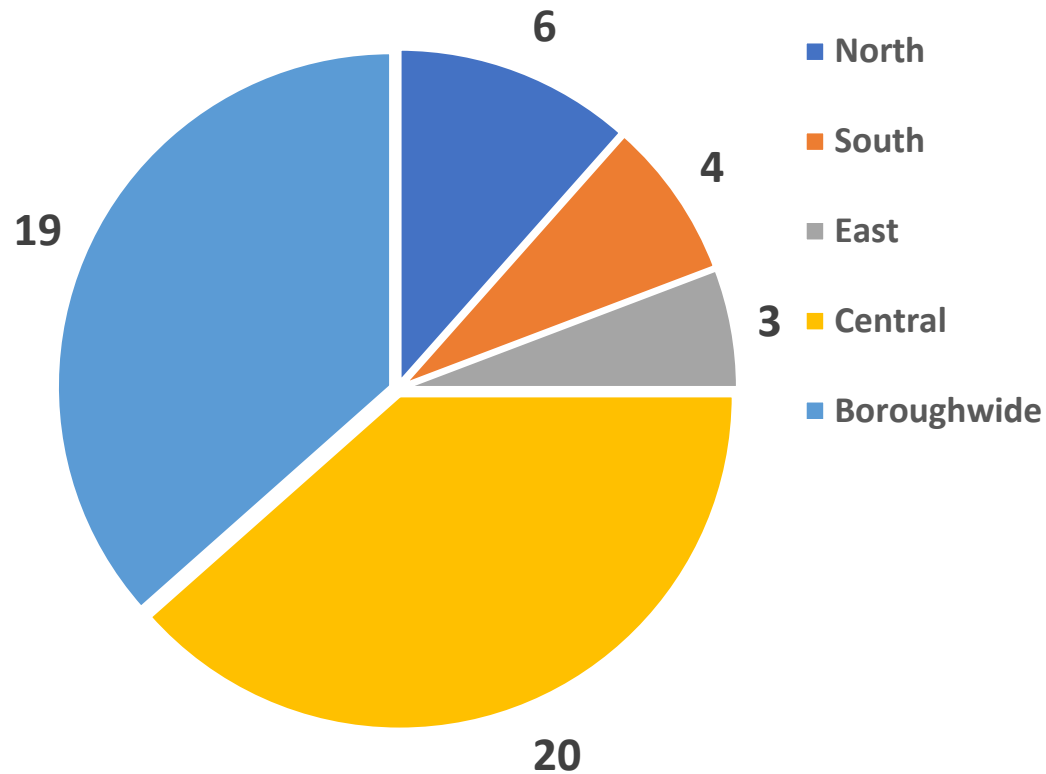
**Winter Support Fund
2021 – 2022
£31,641**

The fund allowed VCFS organisations to provide practical support to the clinically extremely vulnerable and offer a variety of projects to ensure people reconnect safely after COVID during winter 2021/22.

**VCFS Fund
2022 – present £243,156**

The SIA's current fund allows organisations to support Doncaster residents through projects designed to tackle social isolation and loneliness as well as funding for Welcome Spaces that support the current cost-of-living crisis.

Locations of services offered by current members



Current VCFS organisations

52 organisations currently across the borough

Types of support offered:

- Financial Support & Advice
- Social Groups & Activities
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Volunteering & Skills Support
- Managing & Caring for Long-term Health Conditions
- Digital skills support

Current/Recent projects



University/DMBC co-design project to evaluate whether the AEBCD method that had been used in NHS could be used in a social care setting.



Ongoing Grant Management and monitoring of VCFS groups.



Attend Doncaster working groups with DMBC/ICB to work on shared priorities.



Quarterly member workshops in localities with our members to discuss projects, priorities and emerging issues.



Development of website and members areas to ensure groups are compliant, receive support and we can utilise funding opportunities more collaboratively using VCFS resources.



Communication and distribution of collaborative community information to increase participation of services offered in localities.

Contacts

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The image shows two screenshots of the Social Isolation Alliance website. The top screenshot is the homepage, featuring a navigation bar with links for Home, Loneliness, About, Support, News, Contact, and Member's Area. The main banner includes the text "Welcome to the Social Isolation Alliance. We bring Doncaster communities together to eliminate social isolation and loneliness." and a "Find Out More" button. Below the banner are three cards with questions: "Are you struggling financially?", "Are you not feeling yourself?", and "Would you like to join a group?". The bottom screenshot shows the Member's Area dashboard for a user named Sammi, with a navigation bar and a sidebar menu. The dashboard includes a success message, a CMS message, a profile form with fields for Name, Email, Contact No., and Company, and buttons for "Update Details" and "Update Password". A footer message indicates the user logged in on Thursday 13th April 2023.