

### Housing: Support grants – proposed allocations for 2023-2026

The Housing Related Grants scheme offers 3-year funding support to voluntary organisations for the delivery of housing advice and homeless prevention related services across South Cambridgeshire.

During the period 2019-2022, the following three organisations received an annual grant.

Organisation	2022/23 (£)	Grant Usage
Cambridge Cyrenians	1845	<p>During the 21/22 financial year the Cyrenians accommodated 21 residents with a connection to South Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Referrals are typically for people with an increasing level of need, including successful referrals from ex-offenders, many coming directly from prison, with significant drug and mental health issues.</p>
Cambridge Re-Use (previously known as SOFA)	1865	<p>Re-use provides low cost household goods to low income families in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>During the financial year 21/22, the work of Re-Use benefitted 236 beneficiaries in total in South Cambridgeshire: 151 adults and 85 children under 16.</p>
Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA)	8809	<p>CWA has been providing specialist services to survivors of domestic abuse in Cambridge and the surrounding areas for over forty years.</p> <p>The outreach team offer emotional and practical support, including expert guidance and advocacy to help women access their legal, welfare, housing and justice rights. The grant contribution from South Cambridgeshire helps finance the Outreach worker for the South Cambridgeshire area.</p> <p>During 2021/22 CWA received 73 referrals from women in South Cambridgeshire.</p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,519</b>	

Bidding for the funding period 2023-26 closed in October 2022. A sum of £14,250 has been agreed for each of the years: 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2035/2026. Three

grant applications were received and these were from Cambridge Cyrenians, Cambridge Re-Use, Cambridge Women’s Aid. All applications were scored against the published criteria and the following recommendations made by the Service Lead for Housing Advice and Options.

### Award Proposals for 2023-2026

Organisation	Proposed Award	Comments
Cambridge Cyrenians	2,000	Full amount requested and represents good value for money given the specialist nature of the accommodation.
Cambridge Re-Use (previously known as SOFA)	2,750	Amount requested was £3,450 which is a significant increase from previous years (£1,865). Service has a good reach in terms of the number of people reached and funding will be used to reimburse expenses of the volunteers who help provide the service. The organisation has over £7K in unallocated reserves which could be used to help offset any shortfall from the requested grant amount.
Cambridge Women’s Aid (CW)	9,500	Full amount requested – outreach service is considered good value for money due to the specialist nature of the service and the number of women supported. A new, county-wide service has recently been commissioned but this offers a different, lower level of service to the CWA outreach provision (which provides an out of hours response and specialises in support for women). The CWA outreach is therefore still required. In addition, the council has been able to benefit from the specialist knowledge held by CWA in terms of working with survivors to develop/improve the council’s response to domestic abuse.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,250</b>	

These award proposals were agreed by the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.