

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment
<u>Date:</u>	23 January 2024
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Warm Spaces update
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UPDATE:

At the meeting of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 1 November 2023, the Committee resolved to note that the Director - Customer Services would begin dialogue with partners in respect of the provision of Warm Spaces and in particular the former staff canteen at the Town House.

During November and December 2023, contact was made with all providers of Warm Spaces on the directory and map at [Warm Spaces | Aberdeen City Council](#). This resulted in information being updated to reflect current provision including updated arrangements for the festive period. A small number of organisations had decided not to continue their offer due to low uptake, but a new warm space at Greyhope School and Community Hub was added. The list will continue to be updated to add any further new provision. The communications team undertook social media activity to highlight the provision of warm spaces across the City.

In respect of the former staff canteen at the Town House, opening would fall within existing facilities management arrangements to avoid additional costs being incurred. Discussions took place with Aberdeen Inspired to see what may have been possible to use the Town House alongside the Christmas Market to potentially provide some activities as well as cost of living support information for people. An event was explored with the main provider of the market, however there were some concerns expressed by third sector partners in terms of the suitability of the location to attract people, as well as capacity and resourcing implications for organisations in doing so. The opening of the Town House space would also be within existing facilities management arrangements to avoid additional costs.

In the event, it was not possible to organise a programme at The Town's House in the run-up to Christmas and further locations have been considered to determine the nature of such an information and support programme including the Vaccination Centre at the Bon Accord Centre.

The information on Warm Spaces will continue to be promoted and updated and we will reach out to providers for further updates and the addition of any new spaces.