



Warm Spots update

25 March 2023

Are we coming towards the end of winter?

We're certainly seeing plenty of signs of spring, with daffodils blooming and lambs appearing in the fields, but we're also still seeing some spells of very cold weather. Fingers crossed for some lovely warm and sunny weather over the next few months!

What does the warmer weather mean for Warm Spots?

First of all, a huge thank you to all of you for the work you've put in to make Warm Spots happen across Cumbria this winter. It's been a remarkable effort, with over 200 Warm Spots opening across Cumbria, and we know they've made a real difference to thousands of people across the county. You've given people a warm welcome, helped them to feel part of their local community, and supported them to find other support.

So what happens next?

We know that different Warm Spots will have different plans.....

Many Warm Spots will be planning to simply stop running as the winter ends, and that's absolutely fine. Please don't feel there's a need to keep something running if there's no need to!

The Warm Spots map, which is currently on the Cumbria County Council website, will stop being visible from the end of March, so you don't need to do anything to let us know that your Warm Spot is closing.

However, we know that other Warm Spots are thinking about how they might evolve over the next few months, perhaps thinking about running more activities that bring people from across their community together.

This winter's funding for Warm Spots came from Cumbria County Council's Public Health team and from Cumbria Community Fund.

There's still some funding available if you're still running your Warm Spot and have additional costs (and the deadline for spending your funding will be extended)

<https://www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund/warm-spots-fund/>

How did we do?

The Public Health team will be evaluating this winter's Warm Spot project – so don't be surprised if you hear from them in the next few months. They'll not only be looking at the experience of running a Warm Spot, but also trying to talk to people who used (or would have liked to use) Warm Spots to see what it was like for them.

Need some more support?

If you're running a Warm Spot in rural Copeland, then you can contact jozibrown@cumbriaaction.org.uk from ACT (ACTion with communities in Cumbria) about support and funding to develop it.

ACT also has free toolkits on their website, with ideas and resources to help you develop your Warm Spot: <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/toolkits-workbooks>

If you need any other support thinking through how your Warm Spot could develop in the future, you can contact your Area Team on the email address for your local area:

- Allerdale.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk
- Barrow.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk
- Carlisle.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk
- Copeland.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk
- Eden.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk
- SouthLakeland.AreaSupport@cumbria.gov.uk

And what about Local Government Reorganisation?

Many of you will be aware that Cumbria is about to undergo Local Government Reorganisation – on 1 April 2023, we will move from having Cumbria County Council and six District Councils to having two Unitary Authorities.

Don't worry – the Area Team email addresses above will keep working for a few months after Local Government Reorganisation, and the teams will let you know the new contact emails when they become available.

You can keep up to date with the new Councils via their websites and social media accounts.

Cumberland Council will cover the current Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland areas.

- <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/>

Westmorland and Furness Council will cover the current Barrow, South Lakeland and Eden areas.

- <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/>

