

## St Sidwell Centre — Video Transcript

Tucked just beneath the housing owned by Sovereign Network Group, St Sidwell Centre is a place of welcome, learning, and connection.

Over the past few years, the relationship between our organisations has developed into a meaningful and responsive partnership rooted in shared values. We work with a number of Sovereign Network Group residents through our wellbeing activities, volunteer programme, and wider community support.

As relationships deepened, it became clear that we were often supporting the same individual facing financial pressure, isolation, or the challenges of rebuilding life in a new community.

That partnership has taken practical shape in a number of important ways. Sovereign Network Group provided match funding for our Reaching Community grants, awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

That support has been instrumental in strengthening and developing a volunteer and support programme at the center, enabling us to build capacity, provide better training and coordination, and ensure residents receive consistent high-quality support.

Through their Match My Project initiative, Sovereign Network Group also helped connect us with additional donors to fund vital IT provision for refugees. Access to laptops, digital skills, and online connectivity is no longer a luxury.

It is essential for accessing services, education, and employment. This support has enabled many of our learners to study, apply for jobs, and stay connected with family and services.

Over the past two years, further funding through Action Funders has enabled us to respond to emerging needs in our community.

Winter Warmer grants have supported community events and shared meal during the colder months, a time when isolation and financial pressure can feel particularly acute.

These provide more than food and warmth. They create space for connection, celebration, and belonging.

A Thriving Community grant has enabled us to offer more tailored one-to-one support, ensuring that individuals facing complex challenges are not left to navigate the systems alone.

And SNG support for our crowdfunder helped us provide food at a time when many households were struggling with rising living costs.

This partnership is built on more than funding. It reflects a shared commitment to community resilience, recognising that housing, language, wellbeing, and social connection are deeply intertwined.

By working together, we are better able to support residents not just where they live, but where they learn, connect, and thrive.

We're delighted to be working more closely with SNG and really support their investment in the community organisations that work with their residents. Thank you.