

Clarion Futures' Warm Spaces

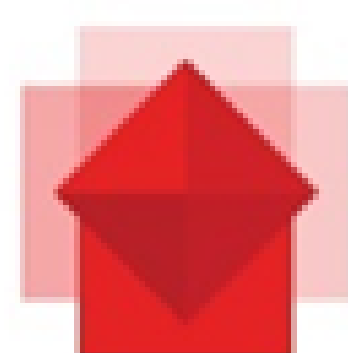
Bringing Communities Together and Easing Winter Worries



This summary report offers insights into the effectiveness of Clarion Futures' Warm Spaces as a tool to support the mental, physical and financial health of Clarion Housing residents and their surrounding communities. It follows an evaluation that was conducted by the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN).



**CLARION
FUTURES**



Housing LIN

Connecting people, ideas and resources

About Clarion Housing Warm Spaces

In England, concerns around the increasing costs of living and heating during winter 2022/23 saw the emergence of local interventions to establish Warm Spaces in existing community centres.

In 2022, Clarion Futures, the charitable branch of Clarion Housing, provided dedicated funding to establish Warm Spaces in centres in or close to Clarion homes, but that could be both Clarion Housing and non-Clarion Housing owned.

Clarion Futures' Warm Spaces aim to bring people together, usually over a bowl of soup or a cup of tea. They provide a range of services and signpost to sources of advice and support on issues such as housing, health, education, money management, benefits, digital skills and access to foodbanks.

In 2023, Clarion Futures received funding from the Rothesay Foundation to deliver an extended Warm Space programme, which included the distribution of Warm Packs, essential items to support people to keep warm and save money over the winter months.

In 2024, the Housing LIN conducted an evaluation of the Warm Space programme to explore the impact on local communities. This involved visiting 10 Warm Spaces across the UK, and engaging with visitors, staff and community centre partners via a survey, interviews and focus groups.



Here's what people said...



"The Warm Space means that I leave my house and talk to people, rather than staying at home and talking to the TV."

"The other people who attend the Warm Space are all my family now."

"The electric blanket provided in the Warm Pack has helped alleviate my chronic pain."

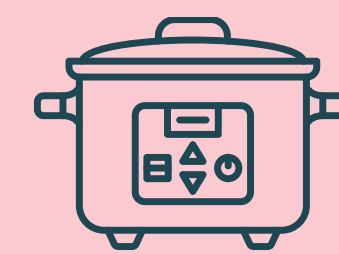
"The other people at the Warm Space are our child's extended family."

"The Warm Packs came at a time when heating was expensive and had increased. It was a moment of relief to have help."

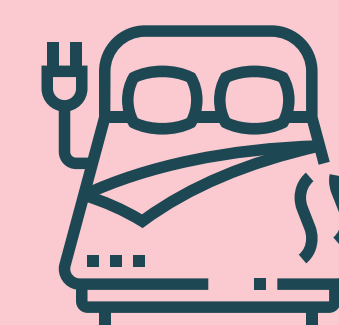
"It's given me a will to live."

"I like coming to the Warm Space because it means I am not shivering at home."

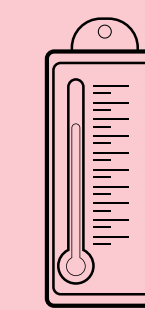
Warm Pack items include:



Slow cookers



Electric blankets



Room thermometers



Draft excluders

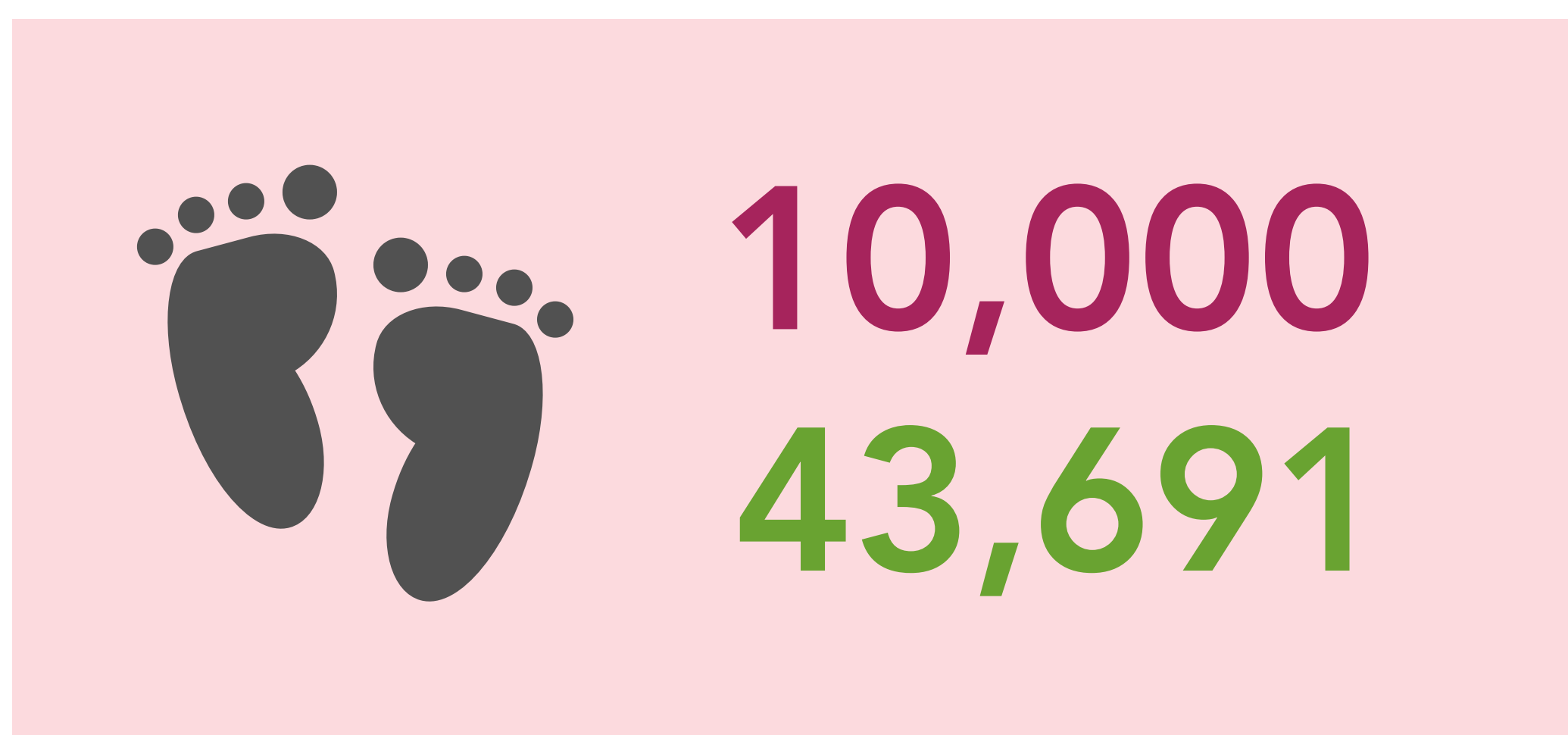


Gloves

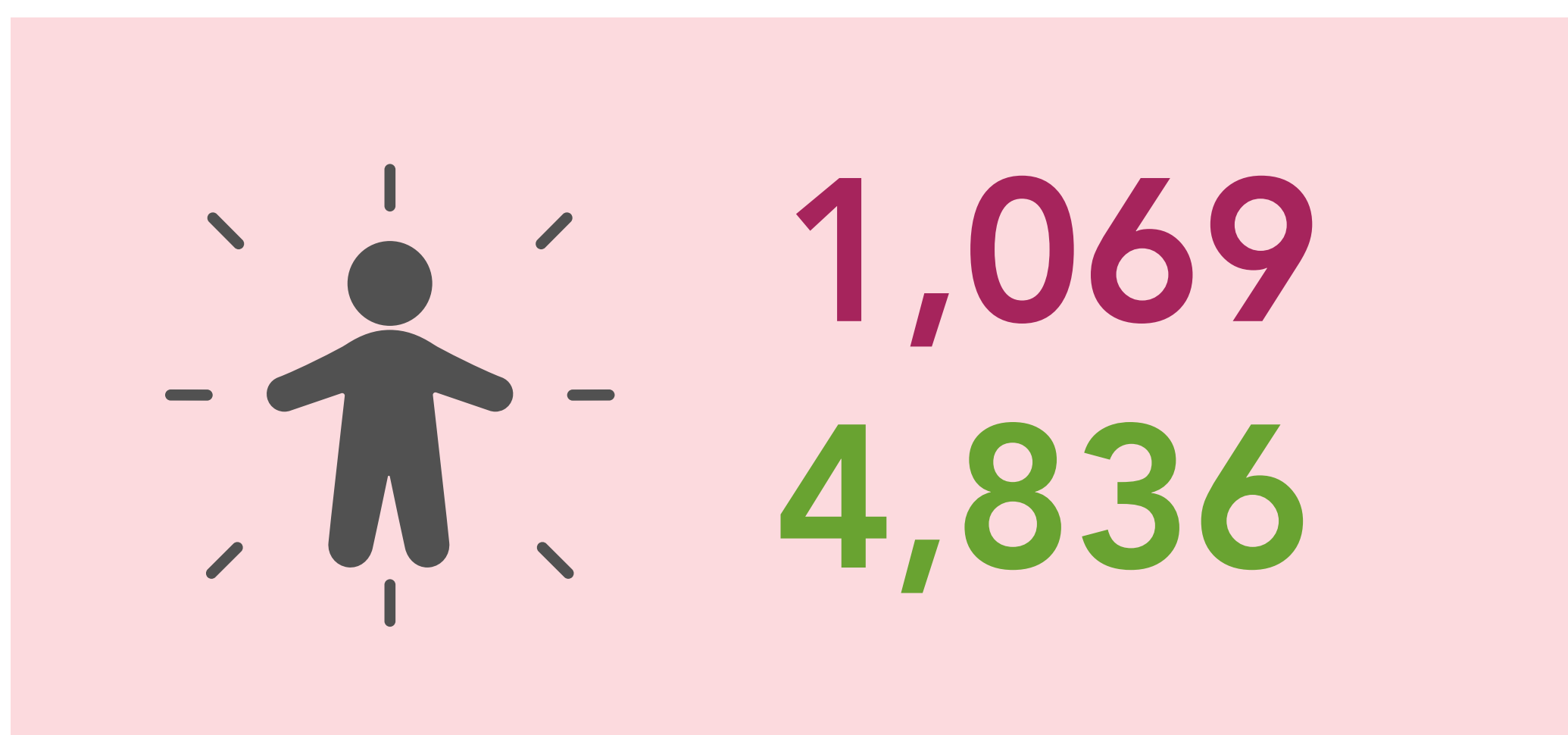


Socks

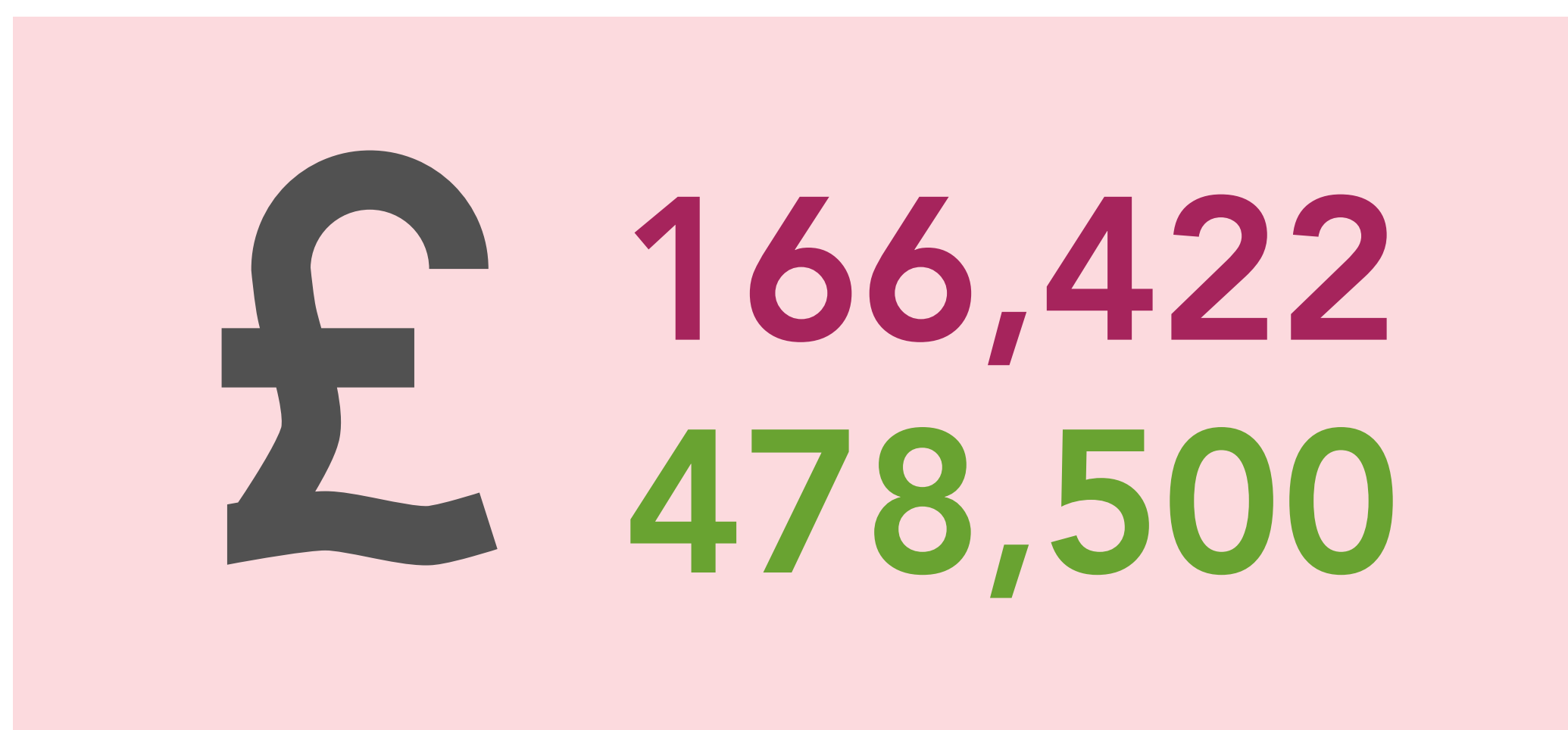
Overview of the Warm Space programme



Footfall across the Warm Spaces



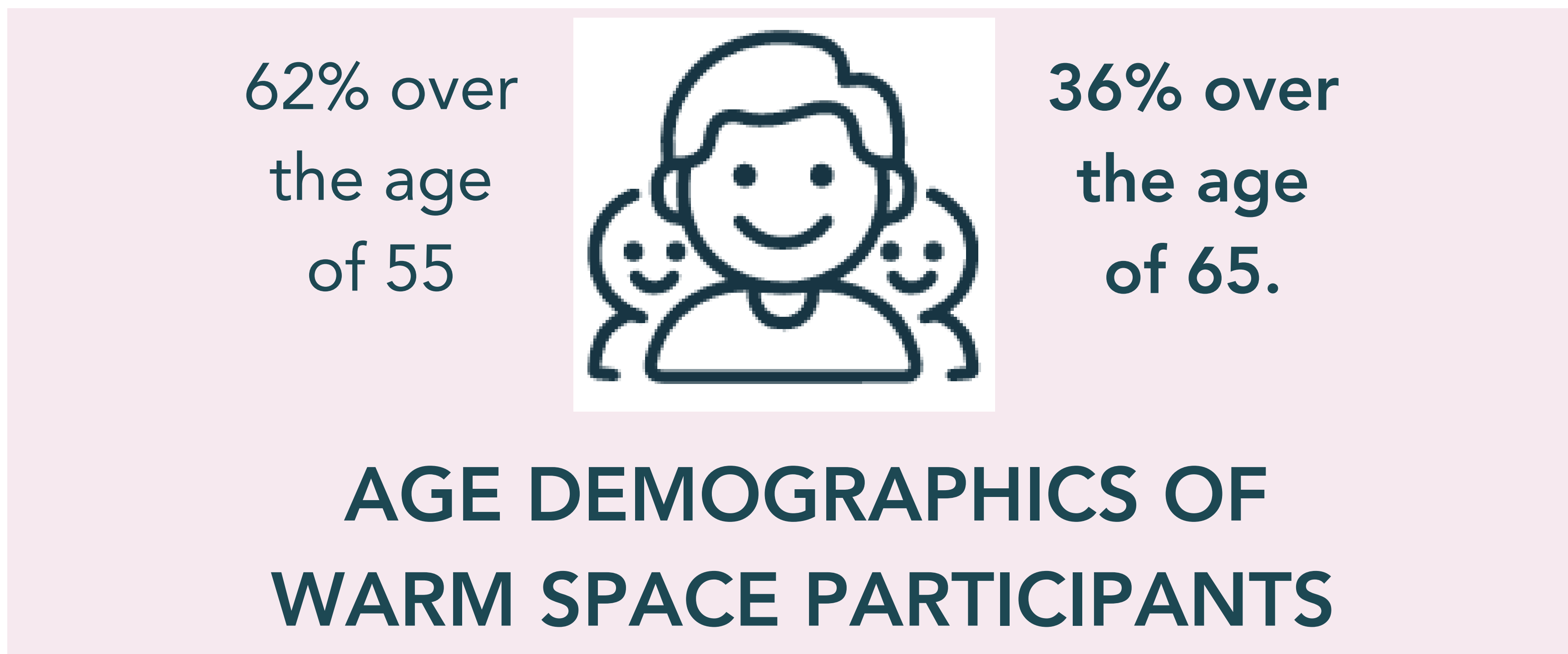
Estimated number of unique visits



Warm Space grants

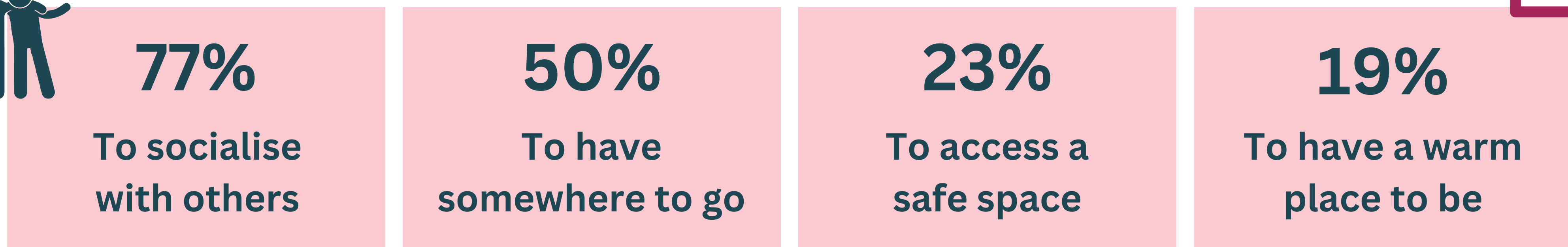


Warm Spaces have proven to be effective at offering support and facilitating social interaction



All participants were asked to select all that apply. The most popular being:

Why do visitors attend the Warm Space?



What facilities and services do partner staff deliver at the Warm Space sessions?



Social benefits

Warm Spaces (and the distribution of Warm Packs) have had a variety of social impacts for visitors:

- Improved mental health – from access to support services and a supportive environment provided by staff and other visitors.
- Increased resilience – from an increased sense of purpose and improved outlook on life.
- Improved childhood development – by offering opportunities for children to socialise with a range of ages.
- Increased physical health – by providing somewhere warm to be outside the home.
- Improved healthy eating – by encouraging healthy eating and reducing the number of people skipping meals.

24%

reduction in feelings of loneliness always, often or sometimes.

44%

said that they found electric blankets to be one of the most beneficial Warm Pack items.

59%

said they found slow cookers to be one of the most beneficial Warm Pack items.



Financial benefits

Warm Spaces are providing financial benefits and reducing the burden of the cost of living for many participants in the following ways:

63%

of surveyed Warm Space visitors said they have saved money on their **food costs**.

46%

of surveyed Warm Space visitors said they have saved money on **energy bills**.

32%

of surveyed Warm Space visitors said they had saved money on **'other items'**.

- Signposting to financial services – supporting people to maximise their budgets and access benefits advice.
- Saving money on children's activities – providing a free space for children's activities.



HELP

SUPPORT

GUIDANCE

Overall, the Clarion Futures' Warm Spaces programme has demonstrated significant social and financial benefits for their local communities.



Keep in touch!

Keep an eye on Housing LIN and Clarion Housing socials for more information about the work we do!

X:
https://x.com/Clarion_Group

Bluesky:
<https://bsky.app/profile/housinglin.bsky.social>

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