



*The Town Hall
St George's St
Hebden Bridge
HX7 7BY*

21.04.24

CCC and CCK Annual Report, by Jan Lymer (Founder Member)

I'd like to start by thanking everyone involved in both Calder Community Cares and its shop, Calder Community Kindness. Your support and help have helped us support and care for a significant number of local families, the elderly and the medically vulnerable - for over 4 years now.

Covid was an extremely difficult time for all of us, but (typical of the Upper Calder Valley) we mobilised ourselves promptly, and in 8 days set up a rapid response hub to match those that needed help, with those who offered help, and we should all be proud of the kind and caring community we live in.

Once we mobilised our extraordinary volunteer army, it made sense for us to see if we could use this kindness as a force for good post-Covid.

- We developed 4 'Acts of Kindness' each year, with a Christmas activity called 'It's a Wrap'.*
- Then in the usually dismal months of the year, delivered a 'Soup, Sarnie and Smile' to those we had supported during Covid.*
- Our annual free family picnic in the park followed this and we were really pleased to be able to invite refugee families, who really joined in and made it a really special event.*
- And of course it's not Easter without gifts of eggs, daffodils and more bags of kindness.*

When the war broke out in Ukraine, and in typical Calder Valley style, we opened our hearts and homes to those fleeing war. We now have a thriving body of Ukraine refugees living in our community. It didn't take them long before they wanted to throw their weight into helping those in our community who needed it, and The Ukraine Kindness Team was formed. They cooked over 400 portions of Borscht and garlic bread, and helped to deliver it to our elderly isolated members of our community.

When the cost-of-living crisis hit us all, and with the help of funds from our Calder Kindness Shop, we were again, quick to provide a whole raft of aid to those who needed it.

I think we delivered over 300 hot water bottles, lots of warm fleecy blankets, air fryers, slow cookers, single boil kettles, and lots of warm sleepwear and dressing gowns to families and children. We made donations to local Food Drop-ins. We also decided to wind down our own Foodshare scheme, to concentrate on funding other groups doing a similar activity.

Our Legal status

We are still an Unincorporated Association, and legally able to trade. Under this structure, one person at the head of the organisation is legally responsible for the conduct and management of the association, which is me, and I shoulder this responsibility with great pride! However, as this needs strengthening, we are working towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation this summer.

Financial Structure

Before we got our shop (originally gifted us to use as a hub for our Ukraine Community, and intended to be for only 6 months), our spending was predominantly grant-led, with other income never exceeding £5k annually. Andrew Hinton, as a retired Cost Accountant, did an excellent job in reconciling our funding and providing 'end of grant' reports to our many funders.

But, once we realised our ambition and were offered a 5 year premises licence from CMBC, we knew we needed a whole new financial control system that reflected the additional workloads and responsibilities. Andrew and our talented Accountant (first time we could even afford to take on an accountant!)

did an excellent job in separating CCC grant funding from the income derived from our CCK shop. It took time and a lot of hard work to set up.

In November, Cresswells took us on as a client, to complete the work done by our Finance team, and all funds were separated by mid-Feb of this year. Last year's accounts were produced shortly after, and can now be downloaded from CCC's website: <https://caldercares.org.uk/accounts/>

Calder Community Kindness Shop

Our shop has only been successful because of the support you have given it, and we are very proud of everything we have achieved, with your help.

Because of your support for our shop, we have developed a strong strategy for utilising the funds to help people (predominantly) in the Upper Calder Valley.

PRIORITIES FOR 2024:

Food Voucher Scheme

We have developed a food voucher system, run by our experienced database manager, and distributed through our professional partners - including schools, DWP, social workers, social prescribers, Staying Well, and CMBC Early Assist Teams - to name but a few. We found a gap in provision and are proud of the impact our scheme has on the most vulnerable sections of our community.

We send food vouchers to those who have unexpectedly dropped into crisis, and have never expected to find themselves in this position. We post our voucher, a kind card, list of helpful support and warm spaces directly to the person's home, so they have the dignity of being able to shop at their local supermarket, and can read the literature we send in their own time.

Interestingly, we are providing support to different kinds of people at the moment. We have working families who are struggling to make ends meet, women pensioners who have been affected by the changes to state pension age, and young people in rented accommodation, who are struggling to pay their bills and eat, or get to work.

Support for Local Warm Spaces

Our second priority is working with small groups to provide warm spaces funding. To date we have supported over 12 groups. And with the extraordinary work of Caroline Beardsmore (CCC Operational Lead, Referrals, Families Individuals), have set up or supported many local initiatives that are now going from strength to strength.

Support for local food drop in services

Finally, and by no means less important than the other priorities, is supporting 5 local Food Drop-in services, and groups that offer a warm meal and kind companionship.

In Conclusion

If you'd like to know more, or get involved in any of the work we do, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sending kind thoughts from our heart to your home

Jan Lymer

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Calder Community Cares and Calder Community Kindness shop