

COL CATCHUP



COST OF LIVING NEWSLETTER FOR CALDERDALE SUPPORT PROVIDERS

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Winter Edition – November / December

General and News:

This is the second cost of living newsletter we have released, and it is our bumper winter edition! We are hoping over time it will be shaped by you, the providers, to be what you would like it to be. If you have anything to promote, whether it be a scheme, a drive, an event, or even a celebration or milestone, anything at all, or general feedback/criticism, please contact tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk or jane.woodcock@vsialliance.org.uk.

On the 16th November, we had our **Cost of Living event** with a focus on affordable warmth and winter poverty. Over 90 people attended, and feedback for the event was very positive! A huge thank you to everyone who attended, or had a stall at the event, and those who helped us run it! The full event report with the presentations will be sent out in due course to those who registered for it.

The next newsletter will aim to be released in late January 2024.



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Huge congratulations to the following COL organisations for being granted The King's Award for Voluntary Service:

- **Alpha House Calderdale** **51st Pellon Scout Group** **Project Colt**



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Spotlight: Christmas Appeals

Todmorden Food bank Winter Appeal [Our News \(todfooddropin.org\)](https://www.todfooddropin.org)

[Mothershare](#) Christmas Giving Appeal

Focus4hope Christmas Appeal [Christmas Appeal - Focus 4 Hope](#)

Happy Days – [The Big Give 23 at Happy Days UK](#)

Halifax Homeless and Community Kitchen Christmas Hamper Wishlist – see Facebook for further details.

Brighthouse Salvation Army [Toy Appeal](#)



n.b if anyone else has any appeals/events please let me know. These are just the ones I found through a little internet searching. I know everyone will be doing lots of fantastic things 😊

Food Poverty:



Date for your diaries

Next Food Poverty Forum meeting Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at Cornholme Food Bank (Hybrid option will be available). If you would like to join, or go on the mailing list for future meetings, email your interest to jane.woodcock@vsalliance.org.uk.

September 2023 Stats

Food parcels given: 971 (based on 4 providers data)

Community meals served: 2597 (based on 4 providers data)

Supermarket Customers: 654 (based on 3 providers data)

Source: Food Poverty Data

Data: Thank you to everyone who has submitted data recently, the google form link can be found [HERE](#).



In the news



[Cost of living: Record one million emergency food bank parcels expected to be handed out this winter | UK News | Sky News](#) Not surprising given the current climate...

Fantastic fund raising event for Todmorden Food Drop In <https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/people/calderdale-choir-raises-over-ps2000-for-todmorden-food-drop-in-with-15th-anniversary-concert-4415766>

Calderdale Food Distribution Hub

It's not too late to be part of the distribution hub project. If you wish to be part of it please contact Tanya Murphy on tanya@happydaysuk.org or Jane Woodcock jane.woodcock@vsalliance.org.uk



Statistics around Food Insecurity



The Food Foundation has been commissioning a series of nationally representative surveys since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, to assess the impact of household food insecurity across the UK. Further details can be found at [Food Insecurity Tracking | Food Foundation](#)

The Outback Community Pantry

The Outback in Halifax have launched their Community Pantry. For queries and information, email sarah.waddington@regen.org.uk. Good luck!



Christmas Day Opening

Happy Days will be open on Christmas day for anyone who needs a hot dinner – from 12noon



Todmorden Unitarian Church will be open for Christmas dinner for local residents (Todmorden and surrounding areas) Please contact Joanna on 07799974997 to register your interest.



Affordable Warmth:



Halifax Opportunities Trust (HOT) offer **fuel vouchers** via referral from organisations to those in need. Pre-paid meters only. They can provide three vouchers within six months, and minimum, one every ten days, at a value of £49. The name and contact details (phone number), and proof of address (e.g. photo of a letter) of the person requesting the voucher are needed. For more information and to request vouchers, please contact lisa.connelly@regen.org.uk.

Calderdale Voluntary and Community (CVAC) distributed over 3,000 **Winter Care packs** in November to organisations that work with people in need of support keeping warm this winter. The packs included a fleece, first aid kit, thermometer, thermal gloves, and more. This scheme is now closed.



Leeds Beckett University are doing an **evaluation of last year's Warm Spaces scheme**. The deadline for the evaluation is the 8th of December. To complete the form, please [follow the link](#) or use the QR code.

Power Calderdale is offering more **fuel support** for those who are struggling, with up to £588 worth of support. This scheme will be continuing over the next 12 months. To start the process of accessing this support for your service users, you must first [sign up as a partner](#). The next steps are pictured below:



The Council have put together an **Affordable Warmth toolkit** for providers. To access this via a OneDrive folder, please email Rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk.

In October 2022, 28.9% of households in Calderdale were classed as being in fuel poverty, compared to the 22.1% of households in England collectively.

Source: [Anti-Poverty Dashboard](#), Calderdale

The **Affordable Warmth forum** took place on the 24th November, at 10am, on Teams. If you would like to join, or go on the mailing list for future meetings, email your interest to antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk. The next meeting for the group will be on the 22nd February.



Money and Debt:



'**Worrying About Money?**' leaflets can be distributed via services to provide wraparound support for those in need of financial help. The leaflet can be found [here](#), as a poster or a PDF, and paper copies can be printed on request by emailing antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk.

Talk Money week was launched on the 6th November, and was promoted by partners in Calderdale. This included links to the Money and Pensions service with educational tips and guidance, encouraging people to Do One Thing relating to money such as talking to children about the importance of saving, and a drop-in for those interested in Money Guidance training. Calderdale Council released a case study video for the Do One Thing campaign, which can be watched [here](#).



For anyone interested in **Money Guidance** training, it is a free and accredited online course which can be taken in your own time. Anyone in an organisation who will be or wishes to offer money guidance to people can join, including volunteers. Completing the foundation level of training will also be rewarded with a £50 shopping voucher. To register your interest, please email Rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk.

Noah's Ark, Lloyds Bank, Calderdale Credit Union, Age UK, and the VSI Alliance all had stalls relating to Money and Debt at the **Cost of Living event** which took place on the 16th November. A representative from the national Citizens Advice Bureau also did a talk on the impact of the cost of living crisis. The full event report which will be sent out in due course will include presentations from the event.



The next **Money and Debt forum** will take place online on Teams on the 7th December, 2pm – 4pm. If you would like to join, or go on the mailing list, email your interest to antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk.

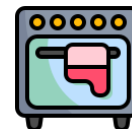


Living Costs:



Halifax Community Fridge have launched their **Winter Coat campaign**. They are operating as a drop-off point for donated coats, and a collection point for those who need a free coat to help stay warm this winter. Drop off and collection times are between 11am and 12:30pm everyday, at Madni Mosque Halifax, 131 Gibbet Street, HX1 5LE.

Acts435 connects those in need with donors. They partner with churches and charities, and put appeals up on their website for people to donate to, such as **raising money** for a new washing machine, ovens, clothes, and more. For more information, go to their [website](#).



The **Hygiene Bank** have a network of drop off and collection points, including in Huddersfield and Leeds. To sign up to partner with them and receive donations for hygiene products, go to their [website](#) and check to see if you are eligible.



Family and Children:



Calderdale celebrated its first ever **Baby Week** from the 14th to the 20th of November. The theme of the week was Play, and finding ways to connect parents with their children. Some of the schemes promoted included [50 Things To Do](#) before children turn 5, events such as family swims and art sessions, support groups for breastfeeding mothers and general family help, and highlighting local baby groups or sessions, such as [Buggy 4 Fitness course](#) being run at the Holy Nativity Church in Mixenden. The next course will run in May 2024.

Mothershare have a **Christmas Giving Appeal** until the 17th December where people can sponsor a vulnerable child or a child living in poverty. Email mothersharechristmas@outlook.com or ring 07383 440050 for more information. They also have donation baubles at Morrisons Keighley Road in the foyer. Scan the bauble at the checkout to donate to the charity.





Calderdale Lighthouse still have their **Christmas appeal**. To buy toys and other essentials for children in need, use their [website](#) to find their Amazon Wishlist, or their [Facebook](#) page for weekly asks. They are also taking referrals from organisations for Christmas gifts until December 8th, so if you have anyone in need who could use some support this Christmas to give their child a gift, use the form on their [website](#).

Mothershare are looking for **volunteers** for a variety of jobs - admin/referrals, donation sorting, referral picking, driving, social media help, etc! If you know anyone who may be interested in some volunteering work, or work with individuals who could benefit from volunteering and some work experience, please contact info@mothershare.org.uk.



Other:

Please support the NHS Winter Messaging by promoting the following resources:

- **Pre-paid prescription:** www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check.
- **111 Online:** [Get help for your symptoms - NHS 111](#)
- **Find a Pharmacy:** [Find a Pharmacy - NHS - Together We Can \(togetherwe-can.com\)](#)
- **Together we can:** [Home - NHS - Together We Can \(togetherwe-can.com\)](#)
- **NHS App:** NHS App and your NHS account - NHS (www.nhs.uk)



Halifax Opportunities Trust are running drop-in sessions at The Halifax Academy fortnightly on Thursdays relating to employability support, money guidance, gas and electric vouchers, family and parenting support, and more. For more information, contact jo.denny@regen.org.uk or call 07891 956062.



Funding and Grants:



The VSI Alliance offer **free advice** on what grants are available, assist with editing and forming policies and procedures, support organisational governance, and can assist with bid writing. For more information and specific grants available for your organisation, as well as support writing applications for funding, contact pat.akerman@cvac.org.uk or matthew.orford@cvac.org.uk.

[General grants – Community Foundation for Calderdale](#)

- Up to £5,000.
- For: General, but prioritise applications relating to homelessness and housing, poverty and disadvantage, mental health and wellbeing, and community cohesion.
- Deadline: 30th November.

[Social Need - Hedley Foundation](#)

- Up to £5,000.
- For: Youth support, disability support, supporting the elderly and terminally ill, and miscellaneous support e.g. social welfare projects.
- Deadline: 13th December.

[Help to the Homeless Grant Scheme – Help the Homeless](#)

- Up to £5,000.
- For: Grants for capital projects are available to small and medium sized charities registered in the UK working to assist homeless people to rebuild their lives and return to the community.

- Deadline: 15th December.

[Inman Charity](#)

- Up to £5,000.
- For: Registered charities in the UK carrying out medical, social welfare, or general welfare activities.
- Deadline: 29th February.

[Brelms Trust – The Brelms Trust CIO](#)

- Up to £15,000.
- For: Registered charities based in Yorkshire that are working within local communities to tackle disadvantage and provide sustainable benefit.
- Deadline: None specified.

[Home - The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust \(austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk\)](http://austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk)

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust has announced the themes for 2024 and 2025 for which it will offer funding. In 2024, support will be available for the following priorities:

- Rounds 1 and 2 – Disability, specifically employment and training for people living with disabilities to ensure better access.
- Rounds 3 and 4 – Food Poverty, with a focus on providing nutritious meals, food education, cooking skills, and eliminating food waste.

In 2025, support will be available for the following priorities (full details published toward the end of 2024):

- Rounds 1 and 2 - Access to the Arts.
- Rounds 3 and 4 - Refugees and Asylum Seekers.
- Youth Endowment Fund: Testing for impact - The Youth Endowment Fund exists to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. They've just opened the latest themed grant round, Testing for Impact, to understand the effectiveness of different approaches to preventing youth violence. [Apply by 8 December.](#)



Events and Training:

[Healthy Minds Forum](#)

- Wednesday 29th 12:30-2:30pm, Calderdale Industrial Museum. Themes explored will be: 1. Language, anti-stigma and mental health awareness, 2. Not knowing where to turn for support. 3. Mental health inequalities, access and transport. 4. Maintaining groups – sustainability and funding for ongoing peer-support.

Christmas Events!

- Illingworth Community Centre [Christmas Fayre](#), 2nd December 2pm – 4pm.
- Healthy Minds [Winter Warmer](#) – November 30th from 5:30pm, Myholmroyd Community & Leisure Centre, Myholmroyd HX7 5DY.
- RSPCA Christmas [Fair and Open Day](#) – December 3rd, 4pm – 7pm, RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District Branch.
- [Christmas Crafts](#) for children and families at EdShift Youthbase – December 2nd, 11:30 to 2pm, 7 Harrison Road, HX1 2AG.

[Meet and Eat with Accessible Calderdale](#)

- Mixenden, North Halifax: Holy Nativity Church, Sunny Bank Road, HX2 8RX -
Wednesday 29th November 11am-2pm, Park Ward, Central Halifax: King's Church, Park Road, HX1 2TS -
Wednesday 13th December 11am - 2pm.





Free Activities Spotlight:

Halifax Writers Group

When: First Wednesday and third Monday of every month.

Where: Halifax Geek Retreat, Woolshops Shopping Centre, Halifax, HX1 1RU.

What: Halifax Writers Group was setup in order to provide an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to get together and write to the best of their ability, using shared experience to improve their ability to write in various ways. Attendance and refreshments for this creative writing workshop are free. The guided creative writing course takes place on these days but people are welcome to just come in and use the space to write.

Who: halifaxwritersgroup@gmail.com



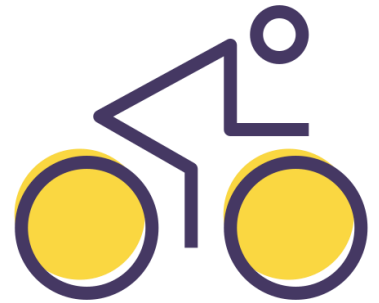
Empowered People

When: Most Saturdays, 10am to 3pm.

Where: Empowered People, Bentley Fielden, Salford Way, Todmorden, OL14 7LF.

What: Empowered people offer opportunities for Support Riders and for disabled riders whom are known as their Empowered People. The program offers tremendous opportunity for positive socialization and exercise. Their core team create bespoke bikes made specifically to facilitate the rider and their particular needs and they have created a really positive community that is built around co-operation and personal empowerment.

Who: info@empoweredpeople.co.uk, 07702 784916.



Useful Links, Contacts, and Information:

To submit anything to the newsletter, such as a promotion, a community ask, a new scheme, or to ask for more information, please contact jane.woodcock@vsialliance.org.uk (Food Poverty Coordinator) for food-related queries, or tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk (Cost of Living Coordinator) for any others.

For more information on Calderdale forums and regional anti-poverty work, contact antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk.

For help finding grants and funding, and writing bids, contact pat.akerman@cvac.org.uk or matthew.orford@cvac.org.uk.

If you would like a bespoke news story written about a case study from your organisation promoting some of the amazing work you have been doing, contact jordan.baker@cvac.org.uk who is the Community Journalist at VSI Alliance for more information.

