

A Cost of Living newsletter for Calderdale support providers



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This is our **brand new design** for the COL Catchup newsletter!

## Spotlight: Food for Families



Working with 6 local schools, Food for Families cooks 150 meals a week to give out free to local families who are struggling with the Cost-of-Living Crisis. They use surplus, good to eat food collected from local supermarkets to prevent good food being wasted and ending up in landfill. Additional funding comes from small Calderdale grants, sponsorship from local businesses and private donations.

The delicious menu includes beef stew, couscous, Turkey korma with rice, enchiladas, pasta bolognese with garlic bread, cooked from scratch by a group of fantastic volunteers.

Some of the lovely feedback they have had includes *'This wonderful group of people are a blessing cooking us lovely meals every Monday'* and *'Your hard work is much appreciated and all the families who get your support is unmeasurable'*

They also have a donations table at Project Colt which regularly includes fresh fruit and bread, and is very popular! Finally, watch this space for some exciting developments. The Food for families team are currently busy setting up a new kitchen and cookery school space at project Colt where they hope to hold family meals sessions and cookery workshops.

To keep up to date with developments their website is:

[Food4Families \(foodforfamilies.co.uk\)](http://Food4Families (foodforfamilies.co.uk))

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

And their Facebook page can be found [HERE](#)



Photo credit – Food for families



## Overview: Child Poverty in Calderdale

**Child Poverty:** The state of children being raised with limited or no access to essential resources to survive and thrive. This can include education, food, healthcare, and housing.

The number of children aged 0-19 in absolute poverty in Calderdale in 2023 is currently estimated to be around 9,436 (19.1%).

This is an increase from 2022, which was around 8,590 (17.5%).

Source: Anti-Poverty dashboard.

### What are some of the actions being done?



Calderdale Council work in partnership with [CffC](#), and other partners such as [Active Calderdale](#), to run the [Healthy Holidays programme](#) each year. This targets children from vulnerable and/or low income families to teach them essential skills such as cooking, educate them on food and support, engage them in physical and social activities, and much more.

Charities such as [Mothershare](#) and [Calderdale Lighthouse](#) operate in Calderdale supplying vulnerable families and children with baby and toddler equipment, nappies, toys, clothes, and more. They are referral based and have helped thousands of disadvantaged children across Calderdale.



[Zarach](#) have a hub at [Project Colt](#) in Elland, supplying children in crisis with beds, mattresses, bedding, pyjamas, hygiene kits, and their own teddy bear. They take referrals from schools, or they can be contacted via email and they will help families get a professional referral in to the scheme.

Organisations around Calderdale offer children's groups or services for free, such as [Halifax Opportunities Trust](#). Their Children Centres are free to join and offer activities such as baby and toddler play groups, antenatal and postnatal services, adult training courses, 1:1 support for parents and families, and more.



[Calderdale Council](#) are working in partnership with Health partners and voluntary sector organisations to develop an emergency infant formula pathway, to make it more accessible for parents in need. More information will be released in due course.

[Healthy Start vouchers](#) are available for those who are pregnant or have at least one child under four and are on qualifying benefits or low income. They allow children to have access to fruit and vegetables, infant formula, pulses, and vitamins.



The Halifax [YMCA](#) offer free school uniforms and coats to children, without a referral needed. Primary and secondary uniforms are provided, and they will also collect all uniform items.

The Anti-Poverty Partnership is hosting a [Child Poverty event](#) on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at Todmorden Town Hall for frontline workers who are interested in or dealing with child poverty. It aims to raise awareness, showcase key projects and services, and provide opportunities for information sharing, collaboration, and networking.



And much more!



## Cost of Living News: Food

Thank you to everyone who has submitted data, it's much appreciated. The link to the form is found [HERE](#) or numbers can be sent via email to Jane Woodcock: ([jane.woodcock@vsialliance.org.uk](mailto:jane.woodcock@vsialliance.org.uk)).



Food Poverty forum reminder: The next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Project Colt in Elland, from 10am to 12pm. Please let Jane Woodcock know if you are attending by accepting the invitation link, or emailing her if you have not received one, or would like to attend. (Invite will be sent w/c 22/4)

Happy Days Collect & Collaborate event – Following the decision to hold plans for a distribution hub, Happy Days had a weekend of sharing their surplus food with other providers across Calderdale. It was fantastic to see loads of photos on Social media of full car boots and smiling faces. Photo credit – Food for Families



The Food Standards Agency have produced a report suggesting that against a troubling backdrop of food insecurity, a higher proportion of people now access food clubs, such as social supermarkets, than food banks. The full report can be found [HERE](#).

### Statistics for food parcels

From data collected, over 1000 food parcels were distributed during February. This figure is taken from half of the organisations across Calderdale.

### Statistics for meals

Over 3000 community meals were served in February and this was just 3 of the local providers. There are so many fantastic projects across the borough (including the spotlighted Food for Families) who not only aim to help end food poverty but also social isolation, homelessness and recovery from addiction.

### Statistics for social supermarkets

We now have 4 Social supermarkets in Calderdale serving over 400 customers in February.



## Cost of Living News: Affordable Energy and Utilities



Affordable Warmth forum reminder: The next meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> April on Teams from 10am to 12pm. Please email Jayne Leech ([Jayne.Leech2@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.Leech2@calderdale.gov.uk)) if you need an invitation or more information.

Groundworks Yorkshire are holding a [Fuel Poverty awareness course](#) that is free, online, and is held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April from 1pm to 4pm. Even if you cannot attend, if you sign up, they will send a PowerPoint with lots of information and tools to use!



Yorkshire Water are offering sessions to showcase the schemes they offer for people needing financial support relating to their water bills. These are online sessions, and there are two currently on offer. Both are the same, and online. One is on [May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm-4pm](#), and the other is on [May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-11am](#).



## Cost of Living News: Living Costs



Dulux Huddersfield are offering free surplus paint to charities and community projects in Kirklees and Calderdale. Choice will be limited by whatever they have in supply. To request more information and put forward an application, please email Tia Metcalfe ([tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk](mailto:tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk)).

The [Rusty Bike Shed](#) at Project Colt has a twenty four hour bike workstation, and offers free support to people who would like to learn how to ride a bike, fix a bike, charge phones and bikes, have a bike wash, and more. It is not fully operational yet, but it is worth watching the space to see how it develops!



[Mabel's Meals](#) are a new charity that is hoping to provide pet food to food banks and charities in Calderdale that provide a balanced diet. They are looking to collaborate with groups that have a criteria for their clients and a referral process. Contact them for more information.



Headline: [Cleethorpes clothing swap bank helping with cost of living - BBC News](#) – An interesting idea about a clothes swapping initiative!



## Cost of Living News: Money and Debt



Money and Debt forum reminder: The next meeting will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May on Teams at 2pm to 4pm. Please email Rachel Stewart ([rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk)) if you need an invitation or more information.

The Money Guiders scheme is still running, with financial incentives for completing the foundation and technical domains. It is a City and Guilds accredited course, online and free, and can give service providers and volunteers guidance skills around talking to clients about financial worries. For more information, please email Rachel Stewart ([rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk)).



[Noah's Ark](#) are still running their '[Budget Like A Boss!!!!](#)' courses for people who may need support with handling their finances. They also have their AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> April at 1:30pm, with refreshments available. If you would like to attend, please let them know on [Facebook](#) or contact them via their [website](#).

DWP Move to UC - From April 2024 onwards, migration of all remaining groups of households receiving legacy benefits to Universal Credit will begin, with exception of Employment and Support Allowance only and Employment and Support Allowance with Housing Benefit. These are deferred until 2028. Further information can be found [HERE](#).



## Cost of Living News: Families and Children



Calderdale Lighthouse have changed their address. They are now based at Unit F, Empire house, Mulcture Hall Road, Halifax, HX1 1SP.

If anyone has a service or scheme for children that they would like to promote at the Anti-Poverty Partnership event based on Child Poverty, they can [book a market stall here](#). If you cannot attend, but would like to have leaflets or posters at the event, or send through case studies and posters for our rolling Powerpoint presentation, email them to [ella.bumby@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:ella.bumby@calderdale.gov.uk) or drop them off at the CVAC Resource Centre, 8B Hall Street, Halifax, HX1 5AY. See [Child Poverty overview](#) or [Events and Training](#) for more event information.



The [Healthy Holidays programme](#) for May half term is beginning to advertise clubs and events. Keep an eye out on their website for more details and potential local events that you can promote!

## Funding and Grants

### [The Community Energy Fund](#)

- Up to £40,000 / Up to £100,000 (Project dependent)
- For: Supporting communities to reduce energy costs. Can be used to kickstart local clean energy schemes, fund fuel poverty/fuel advice schemes, etcetera.
- Deadline: 5<sup>th</sup> May.

### [The Steel Charitable Trust](#)

- Minimum £10,000 – Maximum £25,000
- For: Projects falling into the category of education, health, environment, arts and heritage, or social and economic disadvantage. For social and economic disadvantage, the focus needs to be on under 18's or on homelessness and getting people off the streets.
- Deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> July.

### [Inman Charity](#)

- Up to £5,000.
- For: Registered charities doing work relating to medical research, care of the elderly, general welfare, hospices, the deaf and blind, care of the physically & mentally disabled, or the Armed Forces.
- Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### [Yorkshire Building Society – Small Change Big Difference Fund](#)

- Up to £2,500.
- For: Registered charities that are working to alleviate poverty and improve people's lives. Nomination from a YBS member or organisation needed.
- Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **Cash for Kids Cost of Living Grant**

- £50 per child, organisations can apply on behalf of families using their service.
- For: Disadvantaged children and young people who need essentials such as food, clothing, and household energy costs
- Deadline: Until the grant pot runs out.

### **Ashworth Charitable Trust Grant**

- Up to £5,000, usually £3,000.
- For: Charities supporting those members of society who may be considered as isolated, vulnerable, at risk or disadvantaged, Homeless Shelters, Women's Refuges, and more.
- No deadline specified.

## **Events and Training**

### **Noah's Ark Annual General Meeting**

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1:30pm, Noah's Ark Centre, 322-326 Ovenden Road Ovenden, Halifax HX3 5TJ.
- For: People interested to hear about what Noah's Ark were getting up to in 2023!
- Free event, refreshments provided. Contact the Noah's Ark Centre via [Facebook](#) or their [website](#) to confirm attendance.

### **Managing Volunteers Training**

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 12:30pm, VAC Resource Centre, Hall Street, Halifax, HX1 5AY.
- For: Volunteer managers to explore good practice around supporting and managing volunteers.
- Free training, booking essential. To book, email [info@vsialliance.org.uk](mailto:info@vsialliance.org.uk).

### **Anti-Poverty Partnership Event – Poverty in Calderdale: Support for Babies, Children, and Young People**

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 9am – 12pm, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, OL14 5AA.
- For: Stakeholders from statutory and voluntary/community sector services as well as schools and NHS who are interested in the topic of Child Poverty in Calderdale.
- Free event, in person. Book on by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. To book a market stall if you have a relevant child poverty focused project or organisation, please use [this form](#). For more information, please email Ella Bumby ([ella.bumby@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:ella.bumby@calderdale.gov.uk)).

### **Demonstrating Social Impact**

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 1:30pm, VAC Resource Centre, Hall Street, Halifax, HX1 5AY.
- For: Groups who wish to improve the way they measure and communicate the difference that they make. Learn ways of gathering data, mapping impact, systems, toolkits and methods of communicating results to wider audiences.
- Free event, booking essential. To book, email [info@vsialliance.org.uk](mailto:info@vsialliance.org.uk).



## Free events and activities for service users, clients, and customers

### I Like To Move It (North Halifax Partnership)

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11am – 3pm: Taking place in three locations – Field behind Ling Bob School, Newground Together Pellon Hub, St Columba's Church Hall.
- What's on: Free bike giveaway (parent must be present with children), circus workshops for all ages, opportunity to try out boxing, open mic sessions, chats with the police and fire department, dancing, and more.
- Free event, no booking required. Refreshments available at St Columba's Church Hall at lunch. For more information, email [communications@nhpltd.org.uk](mailto:communications@nhpltd.org.uk).

### Mothers United Project

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 11am-12:30pm, Halifax Unity, 253 Queens Road, Halifax, HX1 4NJ.
- What's on: Mothers United is a new project bringing together mothers from lands of conflict. They would like to create a piece of social theatre sharing stories of how these conflicts have impacted people's lives. This is their initial meeting for people to find out more about the project, and share their stories.
- Free event, refreshments provided. For more information, email [info@halifaxunity.org](mailto:info@halifaxunity.org).

### Boothtown Fun Fest

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 11am – 4pm, Bankfield Museum and Akroyd Park, Boothtown Road, Halifax, HX3 6HG.
- What's on: Music, dinosaurs, skateboarding (skateboarding dinosaurs?!), face painting, Henna, treasure hunting, rock climbing, soft archery, Heritage tour military re-enactments, fire engine, stalls and food vendors, arts and crafts, and more!
- Free entry, open to all.

### Culturedale Events

- Various times and dates throughout the year. Click the link above to find out more!

### Todmorden Makery Upholstery and Textiles Group

- Mondays, 12pm – 2pm, Tod College, Burnley Rd, Todmorden OL14 7BX.
- What's on: Upholstery classes and textiles.
- Open to all, drop in. For more information, email [todmordenmakery@gmail.com](mailto:todmordenmakery@gmail.com).

### Healthy Minds Drop-in Sessions

- Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 2:30pm: Roomfield Baptist Church, Todmorden, OL14 5BE.
- Fridays, 10am – 12pm: Healthy Minds Office, 1 King Street, Halifax, HX1 1SR.
- Safespace Sundays, 1pm – 3pm: Healthy Minds Office, 1 King Street, Halifax, HX1 1SR.
- What's on: Support or friendly informal chats, 18+ only.
- Free event, refreshments provided. Email [info@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk](mailto:info@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk) for more information.

## Useful information and contacts

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](mailto:jane.woodcock@vsialliance.org.uk) (Food Poverty Coordinator) for food-related queries, or [tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk) or [jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk).

For help finding grants and funding, and writing bids, contact [pat.akerman@cvac.org.uk](mailto:pat.akerman@cvac.org.uk) or [matthew.orford@cvac.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jordan.baker@cvac.org.uk) who is the Community Journalist at VSI Alliance for more information.



Check out our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for regular updates on local cost of living schemes, projects, and news!

To sign up to the Anti-Poverty partnership newsletter on cost of living and tackling poverty, please sign up [here](#).



# VSI ALLIANCE Calderdale Cost of Living

Useful Information, services and news to support you with the cost of living in Calderdale



The VSI Alliance is a partnership of six organisations

