



Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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Board Members, Officers, Advisors and Bankers

Trustees	Matthew McLoughlin
	Richard Izzard
	Diane Barkley
	Fiona Russell
	Helen Lund
	Elizabeth Reynolds
Registered office	34 Royd Street, Slaithwaite
Registered number	1202732
Auditor	Not required
Independent Examiner	Alison Watkinson
Bankers	Natwest Bank 8 Market Place Huddersfield, HD1 2AL

Chair's Introduction

Matthew McLoughlin

Welcome to the third Annual Trustees Report of Colne Valley Help. Our aim is to provide services that help people in need in the two electoral wards of Colne Valley and Golcar.

In our third year of operation CVH has consistently maintained a core operation of two Food Shares per week and a Hardship Fund as well as other smaller projects. In addition, CVH has successfully gained funding from the Government Household Support Fund (via One Community) to provide essential food and energy support to vulnerable households during the energy and cost of living crisis.

CVH has also strengthened as an organisation. The Board of Trustees has been expanded from the original three to a much more sustainable six, more effective partnership working has been established and a sound base of volunteers has been maintained. The Board would especially like to offer thanks to all CVH's volunteers and supporters, without whom none of the vital work CVH does would be possible.

CVH has gained registered charity (CIO) status during this year. Maintaining financial viability, further developing partnership working and improving self-promotion will be the key challenges for CVH going forward into the next year.

Finally, £103 was declared in the 22-23 accounts as reserved, when it had been transferred (with board agreement) to unrestricted before the end of the year. It now shows correctly in the accounts

Operating and Financial Review

Aims and objectives

The objectives of CVH are the relief of need of persons resident in the electoral wards of Colne Valley, Golcar and the surrounding area who are in need for reasons of their financial situation, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of food and other essential household items that they could not otherwise afford.

Our core service

Helping people to access affordable food and other essential items by

- Providing 2 weekly community food share schemes at Slaithwaite Fire Station and Golcar Drop By centre
- Making emergency deliveries of food where appropriate
- Managing a hardship fund to help meet the needs of individual households, where other support is not available

Providing information and signposting people to other support services

- We do this in person at the Food Share and via our website www.colnevalleyhelp.org.uk

Achievements made during the year

- Maintaining 2 weekly food share schemes with the support of volunteers
- Providing essential food to an average of 40 households per week throughout the year
- Maintaining a sound base of committed, DBS-checked volunteers to provide front line support
- Raising £15420 from charitable grants and £15533 through charitable donations and other fundraising efforts
- Distributing £27459 of funding benefiting 250 households through the provision of our weekly food share.
- Reviewing our core activities and objectives to ensure a focus on addressing food poverty
- Developed working relationships with partner organisations including Marsden Resilience Fund and the Welcome Centre. These relationships ensure a more co-ordinated approach to supporting people in need in our area and promote the sharing of best practice
- Improved our data collection to enable us to monitor the characteristics of households in need, trends in demand and to evidence the outputs and outcomes of our service delivery

Thank you to our funders and supporters

Marsden Resilience Fund

Kirklees MBC

One Community

Cuckoo's Nest, Marsden

Running Santa

Individual members and businesses of our communities

A big thank you to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for providing the venue for our Slaithwaite food share within the Slaithwaite Fire Station.

Future Developments

The key priority of CVH is to ensure that the organisation is sustainable and viable. To achieve this we are developing and broadening our fundraising efforts and activities. This includes strengthening our profile through more creative marketing and publicity of what we do to both potential beneficiaries and supporters. This work includes the creation of online donation tools and Gift Aid registration, both of which are now possible as CVH is an officially registered charity.

The ongoing cost of living crisis means that we need to continue our focus on addressing food poverty. This includes an effort to improve our food offer to accommodate an increase in user numbers but also to provide a healthier and more balanced selection, including fresh produce.

We will continue to develop and diversify our volunteer and supporter base and further develop partnership working with: The Welcome Centre, Marsden Resilience Fund, Local Welfare Provision and others.

Public benefit statement

In developing the programme of events and activities described above the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The services provided by CVH are targeted at households living in the electoral wards of the Colne Valley and Golcar who are in need. These services aim to relieve and prevent food poverty among these households.

Going Concern

The trustees of charities have undertaken an assessment of CVH's ability to continue as a going concern covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of this annual report and accounts. The trustees have identified a series of risks that relate to the organisation's capacity and infrastructure and to the organisation's finances. The trustees have developed a risk management plan that mitigates these risks. On this basis it is the conclusion of the trustees that the organisation will remain a going concern in the financial year 2024-25.

Risks identified:

- Governance risk – failure to achieve charitable registration
- Governance risk – failure to recruit additional board members – lack of capacity to continue to manage organisation and operations
- Financial risks – an ongoing increase in demand for services, a reduction in sources of income including from individual donations as a result of the cost of living crisis and increased competition for sources of charitable income **Risk Management – the following are in place to mitigate the risks identified above:**
- Recruitment of additional board members to strengthen capacity
- Recruitment of volunteers to support operations
- Access to advice and support on governance issues and sources of funding from Third Sector Leaders
- Process of reviewing and updating policies
- Maintenance of robust financial records to ensure that the Board is fully aware of current income levels against financial liabilities
- Partnership working with other support agencies to ensure that users are accessing all and the most appropriate sources of support
- Decision to develop a Reserves policy

The organisation has limited financial liabilities. CVH has no employees and does not pay rent for premises, though this will change in 2024-25. Ongoing financial commitments are limited to the website license, insurance, support for accounting procedures, membership of FareShare and topping up food supplies. If the organisation's income falls such that it is unable to cover these commitments and continue providing a service, then the Board will be able to close down operations at relatively short notice.

Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions made in the year.

Matthew McLoughlin (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Colne Valley Help.

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024 as set out in this document.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Income and Expenditure for year ending March 2024

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Mar-24 £	Mar-23 £
Income generated from:					
Grants and Donations	1	15,533	15,420	30,953	32,685
Charitable activities		0	0	0	0
Transfer from Restricted to unrestricted		671	-671	0	0
Total Income		16,204	14,749	30,953	32,685
Expenditure spent on:					
Charitable activities		8,940	18,520	27,459	26,426
Net surplus / (deficit)		7,264	-3,771	3,494	6,259
Reconciliation of funds:					
Reserves at 01/04/23		5,228	7,332	12,560	0
Net movement in funds in year		7,264	-3,771	3,493	6,259
Total Reserves		12,492	3,561	16,053	6,259

Balance Sheet		Unrestricted	Restricted	Mar-24	Mar-23
	Note	Funds	Funds	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Fixtures and Fittings		0	0	0	0
Debtors					
Prepayments		0	0	0	0
Total debtors		0	0	0	0
Stock					
Donated stock, and other items		0	0	0	0
Bank and Cash					
Bank		12,154	3,561	15,715	12,272
Petty Cash		338	0	338	287
Creditors					
Suppliers (due within 1 year)		0	84	84	157
Total creditors		0	84	84	157
Net current assets		12,492	3,477	15,969	12,402
Creditors due after 1 year		0	0	0	0
Total net assets		12,492	3,477	15,969	12,402
Reserves					
Reserves b/fwd	1	5,228	7,332	12,560	0
Current year surplus		7,264	-3,771	3,493	6,259
Total funds		12,492	3,561	16,053	6,259

Funds and Reserves Reconciliation

	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Balance C/fwd
	£	£	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
Grants	0	0	0	0
Donations	5,228	15,533	8,940	11,821
Transfer to unrestricted	0	671		671
Total Unrestricted Funds	5,228	16,204	8,940	12,492
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
One Community (protein)	0	3,250	3,250	0
One Community (Toiletries)	0	2,600	2,600	0
Marsden fund	671	0	671	0
One Community (travel)	0	520	520	0
One Community (energy and water)	0	2,000	2,000	0
Cuckoo's Nest Youth Club	592	0	0	592
Hardship fund - G&S	3,961	50	3,385	626
Ward funding 2	1,089	0	1,089	0
One Community – warm	0	1,500	1,500	0
One Community - core	0	2,035	1,692	343
One Community Fresh	161	0	161	0
Community Support Fund				
Café	857	0	857	0
Dark Woods coffee	0	500	500	0
Cuckoo's Nest core	0	965	965	0
Ward Funding (CV				
Hardship not Golcar)	0	2,000	0	2,000
Total Restricted Funds	7,332	15,420	19,191	3,561
Total Funds	12,559	30,953	28,131	16,053

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17 November 2024 where the accounts were approved.