

**Craigavon Area Compassion Project  
Company limited by guarantee**

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**Craigavon Area Compassion Project  
Company limited by guarantee**

<b>Directors</b>	Mr Christopher Leech Mr Philip Emerson Mr Martin Stevenson
<b>Company number</b>	NI615573
<b>Registered office</b>	Unit 5 Carn Business Park 19 Carn Road Portadown BT63 5WG
<b>Business address</b>	Unit 5 Carn Business Park Carigavon BT63 5WG
<b>Accountants</b>	JSR 44 Blackisland Road Annaghmore Portadown Co Armagh BT62 1NE
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank PO Box 183 Donegal Square West Belfast BT1 6JS

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The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2023. This is the first set of accounts to be prepared since the annual accounting date was changed to 31<sup>st</sup> March; the current period figures relate to a the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the prior period figures relate to the 16 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This report has also been prepared to meet with the requirements for a director's report and accounts for the purposes of the Companies Act.

The Directors/ Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Mr Christopher Leech  
Mr Philip Emerson

Mr Martin Stevenson

**Risk Management**

The trustees actively review any major risks, which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the incoming year. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the most significant risks.

**Overview of Craigavon Area Compassion Project (CACP)**

The purpose of Craigavon Area Compassion Project is to focus on the relief of poverty, financial hardship, sickness etc and to promote and protect health in the wider Craigavon Area. Currently, its main area of work is the operation of Craigavon Area Foodbank which is supported by the Trussell Trust UK. Additionally, CACP may carry out further poverty relief projects which fall outside the specific function of Craigavon Area Food Bank, in line with our stated charitable objects.

Craigavon Area Food Bank (CAF) continues to provide a valuable service in meeting a significant demand in the local community. Craigavon Area Food Bank works in partnership with the Trussell Trust on its standard foodbank operations.

It seeks to combat food poverty in the Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown area by providing 3-day emergency non-perishable food parcels and other essential items to individuals and families facing crisis due to low income, unemployment, benefits delays, domestic violence etc.

To ensure CAF targets the most vulnerable and marginalised it works with a wide range of agencies to identify and refer people and families to CAF; these include statutory, voluntary, church and community organisations. It is recommended a maximum three vouchers can be issued to a person within a six-month period but this will depend on the level of need. The vast majority of people referred will access the Foodbank once or twice only.

Our ability to continue our work is enhanced by our partnerships with local businesses eg Tesco & ASDA. Additionally, we receive donations from individuals, churches, schools and other organisations. Donations are mainly of food with some monetary donations.

The Trustees have had regard to the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's Public benefit requirements, as demonstrated though the following overview of the year's activities:

**Foodbank operation**

This report provides an overview of the work of the Craigavon Area Foodbank (CAF) from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31st March 2023. CAF has been in operation since 2012.

CAF has a Board of 3 Trustees, who are supported by 4 non-executive board members.

Its strength is its volunteer base with over 60 volunteering on a regular basis. We have a Project manager working 16 hours per week, an Operations Manager working 30 hours per week, a Warehouse Manager working 10 hours per week, and The Trussell Trust have provided funding for a Volunteer Coordinator who started in September 2021 on a two-year contract.

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CAF runs one central Warehouse in Carn, Portadown, and has distribution centres in Lurgan, Portadown and Craigavon.

Volunteers contribute a range of skills from administration to stock handling, providing a welcome and listening ear to those accessing the centres and providing signposting and support. The Trussell Trust, through a franchise model, provides support to enable this to happen by the provision of a database, operating manual, partnership agreements with Tesco, Asda etc. and also ongoing support from regional managers.

Due to the unfolding Covid crisis in March 2020, we redesigned all of our processes, shutting our Distribution Centres in Lurgan and Portadown. We then moved to a direct delivery of food to client's homes, using our Emergency Food Box processes.

We are now back to primarily operating from Distribution Centres (The Salvation Army, Lurgan; Emmanuel Church, Portadown; Hope Church, Craigavon) where clients can come and collect their food parcels, with deliveries limited to those with limited mobility or access to transport.

During the last several years, CAF has worked closely with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to meet the needs of the wider community. Along with the three other food banks in our area (Via Wings, Storehouse Banbridge and Armagh Foodbank), we have worked to adapt to the changing needs of the community during Covid. This has involved elements of co-design with the council to ensure that the right support is given to the people who are most in need in a timely fashion.

Additionally, where specific emergency situations arose, mitigating measures were put in place in co-ordination with various statutory agencies and community organisations.

### **Summary of Activity**

This section provides an overview of activities, including referrals, donations, volunteers, publicity, management and the proposed way forward.

#### **- Referrals**

For this 12 month period, 1,691 referrals were made into CAF. This resulted in 5,135 people being supported with three-day emergency supplies, that is, the equivalent of over 15,405 days of food and other essential items.

For our normal operations, the main reasons for the need included low income & debt. Benefit changes and delays, sickness, domestic violence and unemployment were some of the other reasons for referral. People come from across the whole Craigavon area, including rural and more urban locations to access support from CAF. By ward, some of the areas included Ballybay, Brownlow, Mourneview, Lough Road, Shankill, Killicomain and extended to more rural areas such as Loughgall, Gilford and Magheralin. Many come from areas of deprivation.

CAF supported people of all ages, from those over 65 to those under 5 and from all backgrounds and ethnicities. 2,814 three-day supplies were given to children. Of these 646 were aged 0-4. Single people accounted for 25% of all referrals, which reflects the vulnerability of this group when it comes to support from the benefit system and the lack of suitable housing for this societal group.

#### **- Partnership with agencies**

CAF provides a wide range of agencies with Foodbank vouchers which enables them to determine if local people could benefit from an emergency supply. CAF received referrals from around 50 agencies. An example of some of the agencies worked with and from whom referrals were received included The Salvation Army (Lurgan and Portadown), Emmanuel Church, Shalom Prayer Group, Community Advice Craigavon, Portadown Cares, Splash Surestart, Craigavon Intercultural