

**Craigavon Area Compassion Project  
Company limited by guarantee  
Trustees Report/ Directors Report**

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 2025. 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 Martin Stevenson
Mr Philip Emerson	Mr Jim Gardiner (appt.d 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024)
Mr Maurice McDonagh (appt.d 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)	Mrs Adriana Indiana (appt.d 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024)
Mrs Denise McReynolds (appt.d 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024)	Mrs Catherine M Skelton (appt.d 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**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)**

This report provides an overview of the work of the Craigavon Area Compassion Project (CACP) from the 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The CACP is a grassroots, not-for-profit organisation committed to reducing poverty and financial hardship within the Craigavon area, empowering the residents of our communities to live fulfilling lives. The Craigavon area is home to approximately 80,000 people.

CACP has been in operation since 2012, and has a board of 8 Trustees.

Its strength is its volunteer base with over 80 hours of volunteering on a regular basis. We have a Project manager working 20 hours per week; an Operations Manager working 30 hours per week; a Warehouse Manager working 10 hours per week; two Referral Officers working 20 and 15 hours per week; two Welcome & Wellness Officers working 15 hours per week; an Admin Officer at 8 hours per week; a Strategic Engagement Manager who worked 10 hours per week up to 31st March 2025 (this fixed term contract concluded at the end of March 2025) and recently added to the team is a Fundraising and Strategic Partnership Officer at 20 hours per week.

CACP runs from a central office and warehousing facility in Carn, Portadown, and has outreach centres where it engages directly with clients in Lurgan, Portadown and Craigavon.

The primary purpose of Craigavon Area Compassion Project is to reduce and relieve poverty, financial hardship, inequalities, and to promote and protect health in the wider Craigavon Area.

We do this through three main projects. Additionally, CACP may carry out further poverty relief projects which fall under our stated charitable objectives.

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

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Our three main projects are:

**1. Referral Pathways and Foodbank Operation**

As an organisation, we are seen as a trusted place of support for those in crisis. Often people contact us due to our long-standing Foodbank project (Craigavon Area Foodbank) which provides a vital service to people in times of crisis. Our referrals team is the initial point of contact for clients, and whilst the immediate need is often food, we have developed a comprehensive referrals process which enables us to provide a wrap-around support service, connecting our clients with other agencies who can assist them in tackling the underlying reasons for their crisis. This trusted relationship with clients enables us to provide a community navigation service, ensuring that they are not alone as they journey through difficult life circumstances.

Our Foodbank operates on a best practice basis, following the model provided by the Trussell network. It seeks to combat food poverty in the Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown areas by providing 7-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 that CAF helps the most vulnerable and marginalised in the community, it works with over 50 agencies to identify and refer people and families to our services; these include statutory, voluntary, church and community organisations.

We aim to support an individual or family at their point of crisis but also providing a wrap-around support so that food help doesn't lead to dependency. Over 80% of people referred will access the Foodbank only once or twice in a six-month period.

Our ability to continue our work is enhanced by our partnerships with local businesses such as Tesco & ASDA, who allow us to have a food collection point in store. Additionally, we receive donations from individuals, churches, schools and other organisations. Donations are mainly of food with some monetary donations.

**2. ABC Community Food Hub Project**

With support from Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council, the ABC Food Hub project is designed to receive and distribute surplus food from various sources to key trusted partners in the Borough, who are providing food-based support services. Partners of this project include Storehouse Banbridge, Via Wings, Dromore, Armagh Food Bank and Freedom Foods Pantry (Lurgan and Portadown). Additional beneficiaries include community groups, youth clubs and similar charities.

This project was co-designed with the council and other support agencies to ensure that a reliable supply of fresh and ambient food is available to support the social supermarket and wrap-around support services in the ABC Borough.

The Food Hub will continue to develop its strategic partnerships with local food producers in the coming year to tackle food waste and help businesses achieve their corporate social responsibility goals. Approximately 10 tonnes of food were redirected from landfill in this financial year.

**3. Welcome & Wellness**

Our Welcome & Wellness project was launched in January 2024 to help walk alongside those needing additional support outside of emergency food provision, with the aim of reducing long term foodbank use. In 2024/25, 60 individuals received support through tailored, expertly designed, wrap-around services.

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We have also been working closely with Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Craigavon Area. This has included working with the ABC Council Good Relations Team and Emmanuel Church, Portadown, to facilitate training courses and link up clients with support. Our Welcome & Wellness staff roles have been essential, providing the capacity to support individuals and families more than just signposting. The Referral Officers have made it possible to triage self-referrals better, and to build a better connection with our referral partners. It is our hope to continue to expand and increase our ability to empower and support those experiencing financial hardship and crisis. Through this work, we are already seeing many gain skills, confidence and most importantly, moving into a more financially stable and secure position.

**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, 1,806 referrals were made into Craigavon Area Foodbank. This resulted in 5,140 people being supported with seven-day emergency supplies, that is the equivalent of over 35,980 days of food and other essential items.

For our normal operations, the main reasons for requiring support included:

- Low income & debt
- Benefit changes & delays
- Sickness
- Domestic Violence
- Unemployment

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, Mournview, Lough Road, Shankill, Killicomaine and extended to more rural areas such as Loughgall, Gilford and Magheralin. Many come from areas of deprivation.

Our centres are located in the top 8% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland (Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) ranges from 54-73 out of 890).

CAF supported people of all ages, from those under 5 to those over 65 and from all backgrounds and ethnicities. 2,278 three-day supplies were given to children. Of these 746 were aged 0-4. Single parents accounted for 23.54% 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.

Some of the agencies worked with and from whom referrals were received included:

- The Salvation Army (Lurgan and Portadown)
- Emmanuel Church
- Splash Surestart
- Portadown Cares
- Migrant Centre NI
- Extern
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Community Advice Craigavon
- Chrysalis Women's Centre

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This list extends to other organisations including Health Visitor and Social Work teams and local Constituency Offices.

Over this year we have worked hard to keep our agencies engaged and establish new referral agencies. It is the CAF's relationship with agencies which continues to ensure that people are identified and referred for emergency food support at a time of crisis.

**-Donations**

We received donations, mainly in the form of food, from many individuals, voluntary groups, churches and some businesses. In relation to non-perishable food and non-food essentials, CAF received 62,886.94kg of donations from over 60 organisations.

Most of our donations come through individuals donating through the Lurgan & Craigavon Tesco, and Portadown ASDA Permanent Collection Points in store. Local churches and businesses also gave very generously.

**-Volunteers**

Our volunteers are a valuable resource and the Trustees will seek to ensure that they are supported and that we broaden the variety of roles available to them. We hope that this would, in turn, help raise our profile and local awareness of poverty and food insecurity, enhancing our ability to signpost and refer. This will be done through the continued development of systems, processes and plans that will ensure we continue to meet quality assurance guidelines. Our volunteers work approximately 80 hours per week, which adds up to 4160 hours per year. This is the equivalent of almost £50,800 if we were to pay them each minimum wage.

**-Future**

In going forward, the Trustees have a number of areas they would like to focus on:  
We have been working to increase our financial donor base and want to focus on that in the next year and secure funding on a longer-term basis.

In addition, whilst we have a great network of referral agencies, the Trustees wish to continue to ensure that this network enables us to identify and support those most in need and ensure that we have, through donations, the correct stock to meet need.

Trussell have played a huge part in supporting CAF, both financially through grants, provision of a data capture system, and through training and oversight opportunities. Although Trussell continues to be a great support, there will be less grant money available going forward. As a help to improve financial sustainability, Trussell has given us a grant for the salary of a Fundraising and Strategic Partnership Officer for a two-year term.

**Financial Overview**

Total Incoming Resources £245,673 (2024: £201,944)

Total Resources Expended £208,368 (2024: £150,140)

Surplus for year £ 37,305 (2024: £51,804)

No funds held by the charity were in deficit either during the year or at the year end.

**Supported by:**

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council, Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland & Seeded by the Trussel Trust

**Registration Details:**

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Registered Northern Ireland Charity No: NIC103987  
Registered Limited Company No: NI615573

Company Law requires the Trustees/ Directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. The Trustees/ Directors have taken the decision to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP (United Kingdom Generally Accept Accounting Practice. According to Company Law, these accounts must not be approved by the Trustees/ Directors unless they are satisfied that these accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and its income and expenditure.

In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.


The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enabled them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the preventions and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees, and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
208E2AAF0FAF4EB...  
Mr Christopher Leech  
Director

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4CE942CE055B4B9...  
Mr Martin Stevenson  
Director

Date: 03 November 2025

Date: 11 November 2025

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