

OUR RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

2022 was a difficult year for many people when prices of food, fuel and heating reached unprecedented levels. In response we launched an autumn campaign called 'Help is Here, Hope is Here.' The campaign was designed to raise awareness of all of our services and to send a message to our local community that help is available for anyone who needs it at this difficult time of rising living costs.

We launched our campaign at an event in the Hope Centre attended by a range of partner agencies and charities. We listened as our local Independent MLA, Claire Sugden told us how, "At least once a week a constituent will cry in my office. They are broken by a broken system." Ms Sugden confirmed what we regularly experience at the Hope Centre,

that anyone can experience financial hardship, she said, "in my experience people using foodbanks are typically middle income."

Paying tribute to the gathered organisations, Chief Exec Ricky Wright said "We really value the relationships that have been established and the partnerships that have been built across the community and voluntary sector. It's clear to see the passion, determination and collective will to continue to support the most vulnerable and see this community transformed and thriving."



partner agencies actively referred clients to Vineyard Compassion during 2022

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

40 201 20,501 £194,759

.... hours volunteered (122% increase from 2021) total value of volunteer hours (based on the minimum wage of £9.50p/h)

16,535

support sessions provided to clients across all projects

37% **↑**Increase from 2021

Total number of clients supported by Vineyard Compassion = 2,457

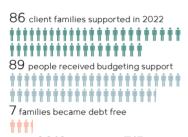
65% **↑**increase from 2021

CIOTHING BANK



households provided with clothes through the Open Door

CAP DEBT CENTRE



since 2010 worked with 715 families and 119 families have become debt free

LOVE CHRISTMAS

hampers were given out at Christmas



184 children received gifts

gifts and cards to HMP Magilligan

COUNSELLING





FOODBANK





tonnes of food distributed

tonnes of food donated by the local community meals provided to 3.145 individuals

80% increase from 2021



LOGS TITNK

 $1{,}410 \quad \text{supported volunteer hours provided to 62} \\ \text{people during 235 sessions}$

52,192 bags of logs and kindling produced

3 people progressed to further training or employment

RENT DEPOSIT SCHEME



COMPASSION HOUSING

97

people provided with supported accommodation through Compassion Housing since 2015





$R \to S \to T$ (Social Supermarket)



£28,244 total food costs saved for families 254 people supported 50 people received benefits advice

RISE IN HOMELESS PENSIONERS

In 2022 we were faced with a worrying increase in the number of pensioners facing homelessness in the North Coast area. Just one example was the story of John, who in his 80s was facing the prospect of homelessness after his landlord informed him he wanted to sell his property. John had been referred to us by the Housing Executive after he presented to them as homeless.

John told us: "So many private landlords are selling up. I never expected that this would be my story. I was a tenant for 10 years and was gobsmacked by the news that the house was for sale."

Working in conjunction with the dedicated staff of the Causeway office of the Housing Executive, we were able to provide John with the help he needed, and after a brief stay in an apartment within our Compassion Housing scheme, he has now moved into his forever home.

"If it hadn't been for my friends at Vineyard Compassion I would be on the sand dunes living in a tent."



Vineyard Compassion provides people with practical, emotional and financial support at their crisis point of need, while empowering them to tackle the underlying root causes of poverty.

For further information about our projects and additional materials, please contact the office or visit our website.



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