

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ProjectColt
Changing lives for good

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the activities and achievements of Project Colt over the past year. It has been a privilege to work with our incredible team and witness the positive impact that is growing within our community. One of our key accomplishments this year was the successful implementation of a new strategic plan. Working closely with the board of trustees, management implemented significant refurbishment and operational changes to the mill. These changes allowed us to welcome several concessions into the mill, all of which are beneficial and offer services to our clients and wider public. Work is ongoing to transform our space and increase our partnerships.

I am proud to say that we have been able to employ a volunteer coordinator through Lottery funding, where up to 50 people per year will have opportunities to volunteer, learn skills and change their lives for good. We have further employed 3 part time staff to support the recovery work through other funders. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our staff and volunteers. Their commitment to our cause has been instrumental in our success. I am grateful for their passion and tireless efforts in making a difference in the lives of those we serve. I am so proud of the achievements we have made as a charity over the past year. Together we have certainly been able to continue making a positive impact in our community.

Lastly, 2023 is set to bring about more changes for Project Colt as we enter a period of transition. Our CEO and founder Mary Spencer will retire in August. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Mary all the best for the future and thanking her for her outstanding dedication and passion, in giving us the truly wonderful place that is Project Colt. I look forward to supporting the continued work and creating more growth.

Danny Barker (Chair)

OUR APPROACH



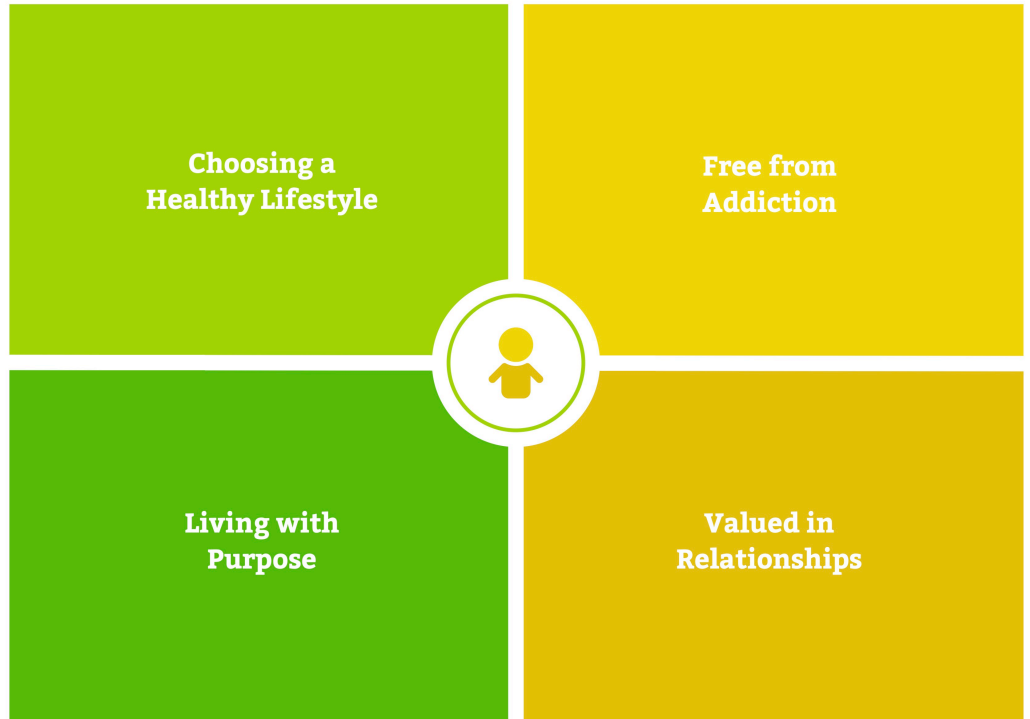
**Personal
Approach**



**Welcoming
Atmosphere**



**Passionate
Team**



Peter

Peter began his volunteer role at Project Colt a few years ago after a 15-month stint in HMP. He was feeling incredibly low and had little self-worth when he first attended Project Colt. Peter's first volunteer role here was a Warehouse Operative position. For some time, Peter was content to contribute as a member of the team until this year, when he has completed several training courses. Peter now employs his new skills at Colt, supporting the efficiency of all sectors within the charity. He says, *"I am so thankful to Colt for taking a chance on me. Their belief and support of me has helped me to form good habits, like getting out of bed in the morning and keeping me away from reoffending. This place has become like a family to me, building me up with confidence, self-worth and helping me find purpose again."*

Comparing life now to life before he came to Colt, Peter stated he is happy here, and is always challenged to grow in himself and in skill. He sees his role as being part of the team that makes things work behind the scenes, so that customers can have a great experience. Peter hopes that a part time job might develop here at Colt in the near future. Regardless, Peter would like to remain part of the Colt community and support people who have had similar life difficulties. He understands the strength of being valued, finding purpose, and a community that helps him to grow. He now strongly advocates for this opportunity to be extended to others.

"What motivates me each day to go to work is that I have a clear role and purpose here and have become a trusted member of the team."

Changing Lives for Good

Pursuing our mission is underpinned by a set of **values** that drives us, and applies to all stakeholders at Colt – staff, trustees, volunteers, beneficiaries, supporters, and clients:

You are valued

You have purpose

You can grow

As a result of this, our **vision** statement has been defined as:

Helping people on the journey of self-discovery to recovery.



NUMBERS

In terms of outputs, we have said that by 2024 we will increase:

- o from *3.5 to 5 days delivery* with some sessions on Saturdays or during evenings. We have increased to *5 days per week plus one evening*.
- o from *90 to 150 service users per year*. We have supported *138* individuals during this financial year.
- o addiction counselling from *30 to 50 individuals*. We have counselled *71* service users.
- o work with *60 women*. We have engaged with *47* women, *18* of whom have attended the women's self-esteem group.
- o increase employment support through Colt Enterprise from *13 to 50 per year*. We have supported *43* people into an employment pathway.

Other achievements include:

- o Barista, Art, Upcycling, Horticulture and Barbering training courses to *149* people.
- o transactions at the mill from about 300 to 1200 per month which indicates a *four-fold increase in footfall*.
- o providing *95 beds and 55 home starter packs* of basic furniture for individuals and families in need (including those fleeing domestic violence, experiencing family break down or homelessness, refugees, children without their own beds and those experiencing significant poverty).



Case Study

I answered the phone to a woman who was crying and asking if we could help her husband. She explained their desperate situation, informing me that he was addicted to crack cocaine and that she couldn't help him anymore since the involvement of social services. I told her to bring him to Colt immediately and that I would complete an assessment and initiate a care plan for him. They attended together with their young child, and I attempted to find him somewhere to live. Unfortunately, with just a few weeks to Christmas we were unable to find anywhere, but his parents agreed that he could stay with them on the condition that he accessed support and began his recovery journey. He started to attend our programme twice a week and has maintained his abstinence from that point on. He has begun work again and has continued to engage with us. Now the family have been reconciled and, despite a brief relapse, he has been clean for over six months.

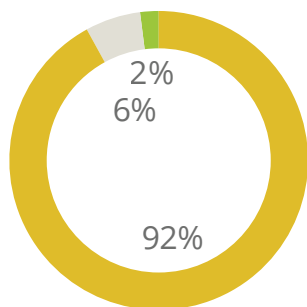


Sharon

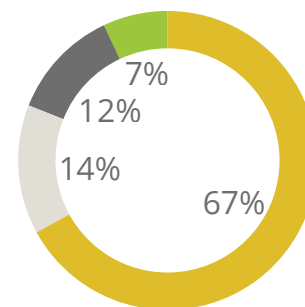
Sharon has experienced some difficult situations throughout her life and has struggled with substance abuse from the age of 12. She came to Project Colt to access the recovery services and counselling. After an initial period, Sharon got involved in the Inspire and Achieve programme, which supports people into purposeful volunteer and work opportunities. Through volunteering Sharon has grown in confidence, developed routine, and started to feel part of a community rather than an outsider. As part of her recovery programme, Sharon has completed her Barista training at Colt and feels highly motivated as she now regularly volunteers as a Barista. She enjoys contributing something purposeful to the community. "When customers are happy with my service, I have a sense of achievement that I never had before – this is wonderful." Sharon sadly experienced the loss of her brother recently, but had the strength and support structure in place to manage this incredibly difficult time without relapse. Sharon says, "I no longer feel lonely and incapable, because I know I am supported by this wonderful community at Colt." When I asked Sharon what she is looking forward to in the future, she said; "Employment is the next step for me, and I hope to find something small before Christmas so that I can buy gifts for my adopted parents to show gratitude for all they have done for me. I also want to save money for driving lessons and hope to own my own car in the future."



FINANCE 2022-23 PROJECT COLT



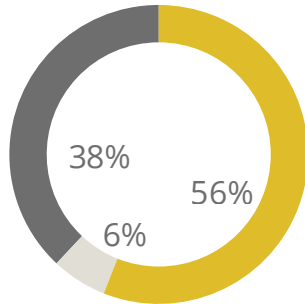
Income	%	£119,785
Grants Received	92	110,229
Donations	6	7,653
Individual Giving	2	1,903



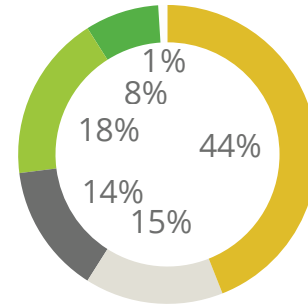
Expenditure	%	£127,090
Staff Costs	67	85,688
Premises Costs	14	17,960
Overhead Costs	12	14,834
Programme Costs	7	8,608

Copies of the full audited accounts are available on the Charity Commission website or by request from the Charity's registered office.

COLT ENTERPRISE



Income	%	£231,085
Grants Received	38	88,305
Sales	56	128,159
Rent	6	14,621



Expenditure	%	£202,869
Staff	44	88,479
Premises	15	30,473
Overheads	14	29,360
Business Costs	18	36,870
Project Costs	8	16,467
Donations	1	1,220

Colt Enterprise accounts are on Companies House website or by request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fundraising and resource mobilisation had always been a top priority for us, and to this extent the staff have worked tirelessly to secure financial support from various sources, including continued support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation, the Henry Smith Charity, and the Garfield Weston Foundation. These, along with several other funders, enable us to keep our core offer running, and we would like to express our gratitude to all our donors and supporters for their generosity and belief in our mission.

A BIG thank you to our many supporters and partners:

The National Lottery Community Fund, Awards for All, Community Foundation for Calderdale, The Henry Smith Charity, Comic Relief, NHS Local, Garfield Weston Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Sovereign Healthcare Community Programme, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, Calderdale MBC, Anglo Recycling

Concessions and Partners operating from the Mill Include:

Rusty's Coffee Club, Serenity Wellbeing Gardens, House of Handsome, Heutopiart, Lucy Arden Mother Artist, Upcycled Ade, Heartfelt Treasures, Zarach, Re; soap-making, Colt Community Voices.

LOOKING AHEAD

In October 2022 we gathered staff, volunteers and collaborators to explore the future at the mill.

The consensus was to continue and grow in our efforts to:

- o Renew and develop our building to become a community space accessible to all.
- o Increase volunteering opportunities and allow people to contribute in purposeful ways.
- o Respond to the increased needs of the wider community through developing services.
- o Help people with addictions become abstinent AND integrate back into society through purposeful work opportunities.

The key theme was captured as “developing a sense of community rooted in working together.”

We feel these are worthy of our efforts as we seek to **change lives for good.**



DONATE NOW - HOW?

There are various ways you can support Project Colt. If you are interested in any of the below, please call **01422 485200** or contact **rusty@projectcolt.org.uk** in the first instance.

- a.* Donate household goods
- b.* Become a monthly Hope Giver
- c.* Make a one-time financial contribution
- d.* Become a volunteer and contribute your time, skills & expertise.

Bridgefield Mills

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HX5 0SX

www.projectcolt.org.uk



Project Colt & Colt Enterprise
(Calderdale)Ltd.

Company number 5460328

Charity number 1098268