



COL CATCHUP

Autumn edition

A Cost of Living newsletter for Calderdale support providers



In this Autumn edition...



Spotlight:
Focus4Hope



Overview:
Affordable
Warmth



Other local
Cost of
Living news



Funding and
grant
support



Events,
training, and
activities



Useful
contacts
and more!



Spotlight: Focus4hope

Focus4Hope's Hub in Brighouse is always a hive of activity with the team supporting local people in a variety of ways, in particular those in vulnerable situations including living in poverty, social isolation, addiction issues and homelessness (this is just a few, the list is many..)

Their offer is constantly evolving to meet the increasing challenges people are facing, and now includes a weekly community lunch. Whilst the clientele are predominantly attending for social reasons, it also provides a hot delicious meal to residents in the nearby emergency housing and others in need. Numbers have been steadily increasing to over 40 people every week and they are served a hot two course meal expertly prepared and cooked by volunteers. This funded by Northern Gas Networks who have also trained some of the staff and volunteers to be able to give guidance to reduce energy costs.



FOCUS4HOPE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BETTER LIVES ARE OFFERING A NEW WEEKLY SUPPORT DROP IN

This is a new service for any adults over 18, providing the support you need to stay healthy, independent and in control of your life for as long as possible.

- We can help you by:
- Providing information about health and well-being
 - Providing general health checks - carried out by members of the Focus4Hope team
 - Promoting independence and preventing the need for formal services like homes and residential care
 - Offering support for carers
 - Providing information about 'keeping pendant alarms and other technology
 - Providing information about equipment and adaptations for your home
 - Providing information and support with accessing community groups and social activities
 - Referring for further support as required

Weekly from: **FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER**
9.30am-12.00pm at our Community Hub
12 Harkerfield Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JZ
Open for free Drop In events



NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED - JUST DROP IN AND TALK TO US!

This month, they have also started a fantastic project with the Better Lives team to provide a drop in service for clients either accessing the Affordable Food Hub or needing support. This includes specialist support from Recovery Steps, health checks, advice for anyone needing extra care and help and much more. This is offered on a 'no appointment needed' basis so anyone can just drop in for a chat.

Alongside offering affordable food in their extensive 'supermarket' and food boxes for families over the school holidays, they are about to embark on their annual Christmas Project. Previously feeding over 500 families, this is a mammoth task, but the team alongside hundreds of volunteers are raring to go. Schools and statutory bodies can refer any family for a parcel, which contains lots of festive food and treats. People can help by donating items for the parcels or by helping box and wrap everything up. Several local businesses where staff have paid time off for volunteering have got involved too.



For more information on everything focus4hope do and how can you help visit their website at [Helping the homeless, elderly & vulnerable in West Yorkshire](#) or their facebook page [Focus4Hope Facebook](#)



Overview: Affordable Warmth

26.2% of Calderdale are in fuel poverty (2024)



20% of households in the UK are in fuel poverty (2024)

Source: [Calderdale Anti-Poverty Dashboard](#)

What support can be accessed for affordable warmth in Calderdale?

To access the **affordable warmth guide** for frontline workers supporting low-income households in Calderdale, which has information on **where to access energy vouchers and other affordable warmth support** for people in need, email jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk.



For those over the age of 65+, [AgeUK Calderdale and Kirklees](#) have some helpful resources on how to stay warm and affordable ways to do it. They also offer free home energy checks, where a trusted handyperson can visit the home and check to make sure it is energy efficient, as well as help to install small measures to improve heat retention and lower energy bills.

Calderdale Council offer the [Healthy Homes scheme](#), with two main schemes-both are for people who own their own home. One is for those with a long term health condition and is on certain benefits, and the other is for those on a lower income and is on certain benefits. The Healthy Homes scheme can help to cover some, if not all (up to a certain amount), of the costs of repairing or replacing a boiler, getting new insulation, and more.



In partnership with Northern Gas Networks, Focus4Hope are a Centre for Warmth which gives advice and guidance around keeping warm in the home, energy saving measures to reduce fuel poverty, advice around the Priority Service register and how to sign up, and providing energy saving appliances and items to those who can't afford them.

Groundwork have two schemes. One is the Green Doctor scheme, which involves an initial home visit, with a follow-up if required. They can offer **energy tariff advice**, energy **efficiency advice**, **energy and water debt support**, the **supply and installation of small measures**, **building fabric check**, support for **grants to get larger repairs and measures**, e.g. insulation, and much more. [Check out their referral form for criteria.](#)



The other scheme is the Bright Futures scheme, For **those moving into a new property**. They can help with **setting up the heating system correctly**, **checking accounts have been opened with accurate meter reads** as well as looking at any **easy, cheap energy saving measures**. During the visit they will be given a **£50 energy voucher** to help them get off to a good start and a **Green Doctor warm pack** which includes **blankets, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, a hot water bottle and thermal mug**. [Check out their referral form for criteria](#) (same as the Green Doctor scheme as long as they are moving into a new property, just add 'Bright Futures' into the notes).



newground

Newground Together will provide free home energy checks for North Halifax residents. They will help people save money on their energy bills and make their homes more energy efficient. They will also bring handy energy saving products to the home visit. Contact them by telephone (**0300 330 5535**), email (hello@newground.co.uk), or use their [referral form](#).



Cost of Living News: Food

Thank you to everyone who has submitted data, it's much appreciated. The link to the form is found [HERE](#) or numbers can be sent via email to Jane Woodcock: (jane.woodcock@cvac.org.uk). From data collected, it shows that:

Social Supermarkets *In September there were over 530 shops at the 4 affordable food outlets in Calderdale. This is consistent with the same period last year.*

Food Banks/Parcels *Data collected from 2/3 of the organisations that distribute some form of food parcels shows that over 1500 parcels were given out in September. This is a slight increase from September last year*

Community meals *Data collected from less than half of the groups shows over 2400 people accessed a free hot meal in September.*



The Food Poverty forum is chaired by the Food Poverty Lead at VAC and meets every 8-10 weeks, either on Teams or in person at one of the fantastic organisations supporting food poverty. The forum is a platform for information sharing and partnership working, whilst having a place for open and honest discussion.

The next meeting will take place in January. Invitations will be sent out a couple of weeks before. If you are interested in attending, please contact jane.woodcock@cvac.org.uk



FareShare and The Felix Project to merge [FareShare and The Felix Project are joining forces - FareShare](#) Both groups will formally merge in the next few months and will bring together expertise across reducing and distributing food surplus along with access to funding. The Felix Project are London's largest Food distributor and jointly they will be able to pool their resources, knowledge and experience to form one point of contact for retailers and producer. FAQ's can be found [HERE](#)

Mixenden Activity Centre opens its Community Kitchen



North Halifax Partnership
Community Kitchen
Eat, Learn & Connect

Come along and enjoy:

- A delicious, healthy FREE lunch
- Fun health & wellbeing activities
- A chance to connect with others in your community

Everyone welcome!
No cost. No booking. Just turn up.

Takeaway option available for the kids!

Every Thursday
11.30am - 1.30pm
Mixenden Activity Centre (MAC)

No booking required
Email: Conry.Mulvaney@nhpfd.org.uk
Call: 01422 352787 for more information.

Funded by UK Government Calderdale Council
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Staying Well

Thanks to funding from the Household Support Fund, the new community kitchen has opened at the Mixenden Activity Centre. Open to all every Thursday from 1130 – 130pm offering a healthy free lunch alongside fun activities. They also offer a free takeaway option for children 😊

People can just turn up, there's no booking required.

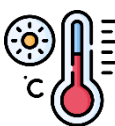


Cost of Living News: Affordable Warmth and Utilities



Affordable Warmth forum reminder: The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th November on Teams from 10am to 12pm. Please email Jayne Leech (Jayne.Leech2@calderdale.gov.uk) if you need an invitation or more information.

Warm Spaces have been rebranded to be **Welcoming Places**, as they provide a cool space for people during the summer. Refreshments, activities, and social opportunities are provided in some locations. To find out more and find your local Welcoming Place, visit the website: [Find a Warm Welcoming Place | Calderdale Council](#). If you would like to register your organisation to be a Welcoming Place, please email Jayne at jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk.



To access the **affordable warmth guide** for frontline workers supporting low-income households in Calderdale, which has information on **where to access energy vouchers and other affordable warmth support** for people in need, email jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk.



Cost of Living News: Living Costs



Event Cycle is a UK based organisation which is looking to get more involved in Calderdale. Charities and community groups can become a member for free, and get access to free furniture, stationary, office equipment, and much more. They receive donations from corporations and events who no longer need them and they will deliver to charities/community groups for free. To find out more and become a member to access completely free donations of equipment, check out their website:

[Event Cycle | Sustainable Events Consultancy](#)

Newground are hosting several workshops to help with living costs. Full details can be found in the 'Free events and activities for service users' section, but the workshops include a 'Savvy Shopper' workshop, a 'Fashion for Less' workshop, and a 'Cook Sustainably' workshop.





Acts435 acts as a crowdfund platform for people in need. Groups can put on requests for support to raise funding for furniture, white goods, and more, and most requests are fulfilled within a few weeks. Find out more on their [website](#).



Cost of Living News: Money and Debt



Money and Debt forum reminder: The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th December on Teams from 10am to 12pm. Please email Rachel Stewart (rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk) if you need an invitation or more information.

If you would like Citizens Advice Calderdale to do a drop-in at your venue to help people with cost of living pressures or energy advice, email energy@calderdalecab.org.uk. They can also offer training sessions for staff and volunteers on energy savings and social tariffs. These sessions help your team spot key warning signs of poverty, make effective referrals, and maybe even reduce their own bills.



Calderdale



The Money Guiders scheme is a City and Guilds accredited course, online and free, and can give service providers and volunteers guidance skills around talking to clients about financial worries. There are financial incentives for completing the foundation and technical domains. For more information, please email Rachel Stewart (rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk).

Money Guiders Learning Hub

Take your help further

Next week is **Talk Money Week** (3rd November – 7th November). Please share our messages on [our Facebook](#) and [Bluesky](#), as well as the Council's messages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter/X](#). There is also an event on for frontline workers, volunteers and staff from VCSE and statutory groups alike at Halifax Central Library later in the week – more information can be found in the Events and Training section.



Cost of Living News: Families and Children

Calderdale Lighthouse's current wishlist:



Boys WINTER
Clothing
Age 4-5
Age 5-6
Age 6-7

Girls WINTER
Clothing
Age 2-3
Age 3-4
Age 6-7
Age 9-10



Equipment needed this week please

**Prams
Buggies
Cots
&
Cot beds
(we have families waiting)**

Thank you!

no toys or books please

Thank you!

Calderdale Lighthouse
Unit F
Empire House
(at the back of the building)
Mulcture Hall Road
hx11sp
Monday to Thursday
9.30 to 1pm



Mothershare's current wishlist: [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Cost of Living News: Other (+ Christmas appeals!)

There are a lot of appeals on for Christmas from various VCSE groups. Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) as we share them. These are some below:



Mothershare Christmas Appeal:



Focus4Hope Reverse Advent Calendar appeal:



Funding and Grants

CFFC have some great 'top tips for applying for grants' on their website. They can be found at: [Top tips for applying for a grant - Community Foundation For Calderdale](#). Click on the link to find out more!

Warburtons Community Grants

- Up to £400
- Warburtons Community Grants provides small grants up to £400 to support charitable organisations towards broader activities which improve Health, Place or Skills for families in their community
- Closing date: 4th November

John Rayner Charitable Trust

- Between £1,000 and £5,000
- Their emphasis is on those who help Children and young people, Carers and the elderly, Medical support, people with disabilities and sport for all ages and abilities
- Closing Date: 31st January 2026

Friends of the Elderly

- Up to £600
- The grants programme is available across England and Wales and aims to help older people who are struggling to make ends meet and to ensure they are able to live with dignity and comfort.
- Ongoing

The George A Moore Foundation

- Typical grants range from £500 to £2500
- Open to all community groups
- The next trustee meeting will be in February 2026.

The Brelms Trust

- Between £1,000 and £6,000
- Must a registered charity with a current income of less than £300,000 per year
- Charities enabling disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community, which may enhance their quality of life and extend their opportunities.
- Closing Date: Ongoing

Patch Community Fund

- £200 - £500 per month
- Patches shortlist up to 15 groups per month and the top 5 is voted for by the public

National Lottery Awards for All

- From £300 to £20,000
- You can apply for funding to deliver a new or existing activity or to support your organisation to change and adapt to new and future challenges
- Closing date: Ongoing

National Lottery Reaching Communities

- From £20,001 to £500,000
- They are most likely to fund projects that support places, people or communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination and support people and communities to shape the decisions that affect their lives
- Closing date: Ongoing

Morrison's Foundation

- Up to £10,000
- Applications should deliver on (at least) one of three objectives to be considered for support, 1. Tackling poverty and social deprivation; 2. Enhancing community spaces, facilities and services; 3. Improving health and wellbeing.
- Closing Date: Ongoing

Persimmon Homes Community Champions

- Up to £6,000
- The community champions scheme is open to all and does not have a specific focus
- Deadline: Ongoing

Calderdale Council Household Support Fund Discretionary Scheme

- Individuals can apply for up to two grants of £85
- Anyone living in Calderdale can apply for extra financial support
- Closing Date: 31st March 2026

Hillards Trust

- Usually £1,000
- Funding is intended to support locally managed charitable organisations undertaking projects that provide social support to the communities in areas across North and Central England that were once served by a Hillards store.
- No deadline specified.

Events and Training



Sign up for the Calderdale Funding and Enterprise Marketplace here:

Money Guiders

- The Money Guiders scheme is a City and Guilds accredited course, online and free, and can give service providers and volunteers guidance skills around talking to clients about financial worries. This self-development programme helps organisations or individuals to confidently talk about money with their customers and give safe, effective guidance. It's government backed, proven to work and UK wide. There are financial incentives for completing the foundation and technical domains.
- For more information, please email Rachel Stewart (rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk).

Supporting older people facing financial hardship - Independent Age

- Free online training for frontline workers around supporting older people facing financial hardship. Various dates and times until the end of 2026, look online for options.
- Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, and other entitlements: [Training on Key benefits for people over State Pension Age | Independent Age](#)
- Carer's Allowance: [Carer's Allowance training | Independent Age](#)
- Council Tax: [Council Tax training | Independent Age](#)

Money Guiders Webinars

- Various dates and times.
- Money Guiders offers several different webinars and workshops for free for both Money Guiders and for external frontline workers. To find out more, use the link above.
- Some are for Money Guiders only. Some are available for all. All are free, and are usually online.

Talk Money Week event: Gambling Harms and Scams – Calderdale Anti-Poverty Partnership

- Thursday 6th November, 12.30 - 13.30.
- The Media Suite, Halifax Central Library, Square Road, Halifax HX1 1QG
- This Talk Money Week 2025, join us for an hour of lightning talks, workshoping case studies, knowledge sharing and the opportunity for networking, accompanied by a light buffet. This event is for those who support communities to tackle gambling harms and scams in Calderdale. You may work directly with residents on these topics or are interested in learning more about how you could support residents.

Calderdale College courses – Free or partly funded

- Various times and dates.
- Longer courses include L3 Understanding Autism, L3 Understanding Mental Health, L3 Championing Sustainability in the workplace, L3 award in Education and Training, and more. 1-day courses include: Excel courses, Digital Marketing for beginners, Cyber Security, and more.
- Check out the link for a full list of courses, criteria, and email aysha.hussain@calderdale.ac.uk for more information.

Groundwork Fuel Poverty Awareness Courses

- Wednesday 12th November, 1pm or Wednesday 10th December, 1pm.
- Online and free.
- 3-hour course designed to help front line workers understand the central issues surrounding fuel poverty. Sign up on their Eventbrite by clicking the link above.

Free events and activities for service users, clients, and customers

Walks at The Space at Field Lane

- Monday and Wednesdays, 7am morning walk, and 6pm evening walk.
- The Space @ Field Lane, 3, Burnsall Road, Brighouse HD6 3JT.
- For more information, contact 01484 556924 or gemma@thespaceatfieldlane.org.uk.



Multiple activities – Project Colt

- Bike riding, and Colt Community Voices choir.
- Project Colt, Bridgefield Mills, Elland Bridge, Elland, HX5 0SQ.
- For available dates and times, click on the link above.

Newground Together – Cost of Living Workshops

- Innovations Family Hub, Dean Field Primary School, Cousin Lane, HX2 8DQ.
- **Savvy Shopper Workshop** – Master the art of smart shopping and stretching your budget. Learn how to spot supermarket tricks, plan meals, and reduce waste. Includes fun activities and a take-home savvy shopper starter pack. Date - Monday 3rd November 10am – 12pm.
- **Fashion for Less Workshop** – Explore sustainable and ethical fashion with a focus on upcycling and smart shopping. Includes a presentation and a hands-on clothing repair/upcycling activity. Dates - Monday 10th November 10am – 12pm.
- **Cook Sustainably Workshop** – Discover how to prepare healthy, budget-friendly meals while reducing food waste. This hands-on workshop includes a short presentation and cooking session using an air fryer. Enjoy what you make on the day! Dates - 17th November 10am – 12pm.
- Book on via the link above or email hello@newground.co.uk – booking is essential.



Family Hubs Calderdale **North Halifax Partnership**

SLOW COOKER COURSE

A 4-week cooking course encouraging 'healthy eating on a budget'.

Learn to prepare affordable, healthy meals for you and your family. You will learn how to prepare easy and delicious recipes which you can take home.

You can then cook the meal at home, using your free slow cooker which you will receive for completing the course!

When:
Wednesday 12th November
(4 weeks)

Time:
1.00pm - 2.00pm

Where:
Innovations Family Hub

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!
Complete the online application by scanning the QR code or visit www.northhalifaxpartnership.org/family-learning

For any other queries please contact 01422 251090



Boothtown & Southowram Methodist Church
Beverley Place, Akroydon, Halifax, HX3 6LS

Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 22nd November
11am – 2pm

Games
Tombola
Hot food and drinks
craft stalls
Grotto



ELLAND SECRET SANTA 2025

WE NEED YOU!

Could you be an Elland Secret Santa this year?

We're looking for generous Santas to help bring Christmas magic to local children.

→ To sign up or find out more, please email: info@equipped4learning.org.uk

Deadline: 3rd November 2025

DO YOU NEED A SECRET SANTA?

This Christmas, if you could use a little festive help, we're here for you.

✉ info@equipped4learning.org.uk
 ☎ 07845 777302

- 📍 Open to children aged 0-16
- 🏠 Must live in HX5 / HX4
- 📦 Collection from Elland Food Bank or Project Colt
- ★ Each family will be given a unique number



ELLAND SECRET SANTA

We will match Secret Santas to children by the 10th Nov

You will get a child's first name, gender, age and what their interests are, alongside a unique number

The idea is to buy a NEW gift (s) to MATCH the child/teen's interests given, spending as little or as much as you wish and adding whatever you like with it, depending on allergens etc. Please note no alcohol, offensive weapons or sharp implements.



It is your responsibility to drop the gift bag (s) off at Project Colt in Elland (on Elland Bridge)
 More information to follow

We cannot thank you enough for generously thinking about being one of our Secret Santa's

The free Santa grotto dates at Project Colt are 10-12pm on the 13th/20th December and letter writing event

Elland Secret Santa Team

Focus4Hope Charity No. 1132543

MUSIC4HOPE

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

OLD BRODLEIANS RUFC

GYPSY

THE SOUL OF FLEETWOOD MAC

22.00 - 24.00

Yorkshire's premier Fleetwood Mac Tribute band. Playing all the hits, some deep dives, some Peter Green Era and the album Rumours in its entirety.

WITH SUPPORT FROM



Gogo Mojo

20.50 - 21.40

Gogo Mojo are a 4 piece band playing a range of music from pop, blues rock, indie, funk and soul.



Todd Wilson

19.50 - 20.30

Todd Wilson brings music from ten decades and always has something for everyone.

Doors **19.00** First Band **19.50**
 Tickets: **£10.00** (advance)
£12.50 (on the door - subject to availability)
 Old Brodleians RUFC, Halifax HX3 8HX




FOCUS 4HOPE

All funds raised will help to ensure vulnerable families have food on their tables and presents under the tree this Christmas.

Thank you for your support!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FOCUS4HOPE.CO.UK



LOVED ONES UNITE

Are you being affected by a loved one's drug and/or alcohol addiction?

- Would you like to meet others for help and support?
- Need to know more about what they are going through and the support you can give them?
- Recovery - Getting them there while understanding how you matter, and what support YOU need.
- What is the role of support from friends and family?

Everyone is welcome at our weekly support group:


EVERY WED | **10 - 11 AM**

One-to-one session every 4th Wed of Month 10am - 11am
 Venue: Project Colt, Bridgefield Mills, Elland, HX5 05Q

✉ EMAIL US ANNMARIE@LOVEDONESUNITE.COM

🌐 BROWSE OUR WEBSITE WWW.LOVEDONESUNITE.COM

Visit our website for more information on how & why you matter, and how to get support for you.



ProjectColt
 Changing lives for good



Useful information and contacts

To submit anything to the newsletter, or to ask for more information, please contact jane.woodcock@cvac.org.uk (Link Officer - Food Poverty Lead) for food-related queries, or tia.metcalfe@cvac.org.uk (Link Officer - Cost of Living Lead) for any others. For more information on Calderdale forums and regional anti-poverty work, contact antipovertyaction@calderdale.gov.uk or jayne.leech2@calderdale.gov.uk.

For help finding grants and funding, or reviewing applications, contact info@cvac.org.uk

If you would like a bespoke news story written about a case study from your organisation promoting some of the amazing work you have been doing, contact jordan.baker@cvac.org.uk who is the Community Journalist at VAC for more information.

To sign up to the Anti-Poverty partnership newsletter on cost of living and tackling poverty, please sign up [here](#).