

Who do we care for? A Directory of Services

Children's Residential Services

We have four children's homes in Leeds and Bradford, that offer medium to long term care for children and young people who can no longer live with their own families for a variety of reasons.
Contact: Mary Simmons
Care Service Manager – Children

Supported Living for Adults with Learning Difficulties

There are three residential homes and 6 supported living projects in Skipton, Bingley, Dewsbury, Todmorden, Keighley and Leeds, which provide care and support for adults with learning difficulties. Each of the homes has a different and unique character, but we hope that all have a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere.
Contact: Sharon Forbes
Care Services Manager – Adults

Supported Housing for Adults with Mental Health Difficulties

We have four supported housing schemes for people with mental health difficulties in Leeds, Bradford and Sowerby Bridge. The projects offer self-contained accommodation with communal facilities and on-site professional support.
Contact: Wyn Dodds
Team Leader

Social Work: Schools and Community

A school and parish based social work service providing advice, support and counselling for children, young people and their families, as well as support to teaching staff. Our team of ten work in 42 primary schools, 15 high schools and colleges, as well as parishes and the community.
Contact: Chrissie Moran
Schools & Community Team Manager

Adoption

Our adoption agency is the longest established agency in the Yorkshire, Cleveland and Humberside regions. We place children from throughout the country with those who wish to adopt, and we also work closely with those who have been adopted through our agency in the past.
Contact: Phil Clarke
Adoption Team Manager

Community Development

Provides liaison and some support across the Diocese in a range of community based initiatives including homelessness, drugs, alcohol issues and asylum seekers.
Contact: Peter McHale



Prayer for Older People

We pray for older people who need medical and social care that those who work with them will do so with compassion and efficiency.

We pray for those responsible for planning future provision for the increasing number of older people; that enough resources will be found to meet their accommodation, healthcare and support needs.

We pray for older people living alone and in pain that local parishes will increasingly reach out to them with practical assistance, warmth, friendship and pastoral care.

Money Matters

The income that Catholic Care receives from voluntary sources is vital to maintaining and indeed strengthening our work in the community.

This is a list of the money that we have received in the year ended 31st March 2008.

	£
Good Shepherd Appeal in the Schools	57,949
Annual Appeal in the Churches	19,639
Bequests	3,034
Individual Donations	14,068
Sale of Christmas Cards	1,978
Gift Aid recovered on donations	2,545
Business Sponsors	3,010
Parish Crib Offerings	722

Many thanks to all those who have given either individually or collectively, your contributions are much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office if you would like further information on ways you can contribute towards the ongoing work of Catholic Care.

t - 0113 388 5403 f - 0113 388 5401 e - karen.byram@catholic-care.org.uk

Or visit our website - www.catholic-care.org.uk

Breast Cancer Care - Strawberry Fayre



Staff and service beneficiaries came together on Friday 27th June to enjoy a Strawberry Fayre at Catholic Care's Head Office.

The event was an opportunity for staff and people that

benefit from the services and projects run by Catholic Care to meet socially and raise money for the Breast Cancer Care.

All the money raised from the Strawberry Fayre will help ensure that Breast Cancer Care can continue to provide free and

confidential support and information to people across the UK affected by breast cancer.

The seasonal strawberry tea with a raffle, tombola and quiz compensated for the damp weather as the event moved indoors. Despite the unfair weather the event was a success and raised a respectable £163.00 to be forwarded on to the charity.

Catholic Care is positive about supporting the work of other charities and particularly where our own staff are involved on a voluntary basis in charity work in areas of care that we do not ourselves provide.

Thank you to all who took part and made the day so enjoyable.



Charity No: 513063

Director's Message

The news is gloomy. A pending recession, higher fuel prices, growing inflation and the highest levels of unemployment since the early '90's offer us little to look forward to. Those who will be hit hardest will be the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.



Mark Wiggin (Director)

The world today seems to be a more unwelcoming place than it was yesterday and people need to tighten their belts and prepare for the worst.

Here, at Catholic Care we know that there is a tough time ahead, not just for our charity where the cost of running our services is rising, but crucially for the people we serve, many of whom will face additional hardship and poverty as the economy slows down. Those who are unemployed will find it harder to get a job, those with children and on low incomes will find their money won't stretch as far as it did last year and some older people will make sacrifices that will cost them their health.

For a child who has been separated from their birth parents, we are working hard to find and prepare a new family for them. For a child who cannot stay with their family, we offer a new home through our Residential Children's Service to help that child to be at home in themselves and in a world so daunting to them.

For children and young people who attend primary and secondary schools we are increasing our ability to support pupils to engage in the education system so that their full potential can be realised and they get the best out of school life. For adults with learning disability or long term mental health issues we offer support to live as independently as possible and for older people we are developing new services that can help reduce loneliness and social isolation as they grow old.

As a charity, our mission is to take the 'Caring Church' into the wider community and a vital part of our work is to respond to needs that are unmet by government or local authorities such as the needs of asylum seekers, homeless or isolated people. This means that we must all have hope and a belief in the human spirit to transcend the gloom. For every individual Catholic Care helps by making a positive difference or change to their life chances, the seeds of a new hope and optimism is re-sown.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Real Christmas Cards Bringing You the True Spirit of Christmas

Our 2008 Christmas Card Brochure is now available. All the profit made on the sale of the Christmas cards and any additional donations go directly to support our work, so your contribution is a very practical way to support us. The sale of these cards raises considerable amounts of money for the Society and the catalogue displays one of the widest collections of Christian Christmas cards available.

There are 20 styles available in various sizes, plus one style of Easter Card, which encompass modern and traditional art, cards for children, religious and festive.

Four of the range is available to customers who want to personalise their cards by adding their name, address, company logo or even a colour photo (eg a family group).

The message inside the cards will be: "Wishing you the joy and peace of Christmas and a happy New Year"

This year we have two Advent Calendar Cards (with posting envelope). Each window displays a picture and a bible verse.

Any orders that amount to £150 or more get a discount of 20%. A number of parishes and schools take advantage of this when buying cards to resell at their piety stalls and Christmas Fayres.

If you wish to receive one of our brochures please contact Karen on:-

Direct dial: 0113 388 5403
Fax: 0113 388 5401
email: karen.byram@catholic-care.org.uk



Focus on Mental Health

Foundry Mill is a long term supported living unit for people with enduring mental health problems. It has been operating in Seacroft for 15 years. The project is jointly managed by Catholic Care, who employ the workers and who manage the service offered to the tenants, and by Leeds Federated Housing Association, who own the building. It is funded through Supporting People and Housing Benefit.



Catholic Care was founded about 100 years ago, initially to look after children. They now operate a variety of social care projects across the Diocese of Leeds including four supported housing projects for people with long term mental health difficulties. Further details on their website: www.catholic-care.org.uk.

Foundry Mill is an oasis of calm in the heart of Seacroft. It comprises ten self-contained flats for five men and five women aged 16 – 65, with communal lounge, kitchen and laundry areas. There is also a guest suite available for visiting friends or family. Supported housing workers are also on site during office hours, Monday – Friday. They have their own office within the building and are there to offer support, advice and guidance on any day-to-day issues of concern that tenants may have.

Workers aim to support independence by building confidence and promoting personal responsibility. All residents have individual support plans. Workers maintain close links with the multi-disciplinary community mental health teams and the Compass Team and are routinely invited to CPA review meetings.

Sometimes these are held in the relaxed setting of Foundry Mill where residents are given a choice of the lounge, kitchen or guest room for the meeting.

Support workers facilitate various activities for residents including a relaxation group, a music group and a film group. A walking group makes regular visits to Temple Newsam. All residents and workers enjoy a communal breakfast together every Wednesday.

While the remit for the service is adult, they will not insist a resident moves on at age 65 if they are settled and their needs are being met. The service will not accept referrals for new clients over the age of 65.

Foundry Mill has a very stable client group with most residents staying for several years so vacancies are very infrequent. They do not keep a waiting list but they do have a mailing list of organisations or agencies to advertise any vacancies as they arise. To be added to the mailing list please contact Phil on 232 6141 or email foundry.mill@catholic-care.org.uk.

By Wendy Kennerley, and with permission from Volition – The Voice of Leeds Mental Health Voluntary Sector (Issue 61 May 2008)

A Day in the Life of a Catholic Care Social Worker

Schools and Family Team

I have just completed my first school year as a School Social Worker for Catholic Care. I work with and offer support to one secondary school and its feeder primary schools. Just to give you an idea, that is roughly 3000 young people. I am a very lucky lady. I adore my job and the people I work with! Every day is completely different due to the large catchment area and varied needs. Here is a taster of what I get up to and yes; I am exhausted just thinking about it!

I arrive early (7.30am) at school (with a plate of homemade brownies baked last night for my lunchtime NQT group) and check my internal emails and post as there are often last minute meetings arranged by Heads of Year/Support Staff after exclusions or child protection cases.

From 8.00am till school officially starts there is an opportunity for 'drop-ins' as staff and pupils - I call them learners - know I am in school before the start of the school day and available at that time without appointment.

Appointment slips for the day are handed to the learners personally to give them the details of their sessions. This is done with the help of the attendance co-ordinator and while meeting with her I take the opportunity to check on the attendance of those learners I support for which attendance is an issue. Today I need to ring the homes of three of my learners and check how they are and when they will return to school (it is important for these learners to know that they are missed and that when they come back to school I am here to support them).

Just before 9.00am I am prepared for the first sensitive referral of the day and it involves the School Child Protection Officer. With my support a young person is interviewed and a report written. By 10.00am, I am again dealing with sensitive issues, this time it is a young person who has returned to school following a recent bereavement. I offer support to the young person and his family. Then, late in the morning I have my Year Seven Friendship Group who are a lively group of 15 members. We have a programme of affirming activities that include: Circle Time/Games/Self Esteem Building Activities/Learning and Sharing/Compliments Circle. A great deal of fun is had by all!

At lunchtime I host the NQT's lunch and enjoy the brownies that have been staring at me all morning. I briefly then drop into the lunch-time assembly before setting off to a primary school in Pontefract where I begin my afternoon with a meeting with the head teacher in which I am updated on events and concerns since my last visit two weeks ago. I find a venue for group counselling outside on the benches as the sun is out and meet my Year Five Boys' Support Group. I then facilitate an effective communication and mediation session with them using a variety of trusted methods. I also have time for a one-to-one session with a pupil registered as a Child in Need. Support is offered and their needs assessed. I then meet with the Year 5 class teacher to discuss the new referral.

At 3pm, I chair a Child Well Being Meeting. That is a multi professional meeting including school nurse, educational officer, head teacher, class teacher and parents.

We have reached the end of the school day so I return to my secondary school to meet with a learner and their parents to discuss family difficulties.

I end the day with some planning for tomorrow, phone calls and emails, before setting off for home. Seen as its now 17:35 It's time to pray for no traffic!

Good Shepherd Welcomes Noah's Dove

The Good Shepherd Appeal is an opportunity for children to help children. Through the partnership between your school and Catholic Care we make a permanent difference through the provision of loving families for children who depend upon our support

School children from across the Diocese crowded into the Cathedral Church of St Anne's, Leeds, on Tuesday 22nd April to meet their Bishop. They came with their banners proclaiming their schools and bearing gifts - in fact many gifts £36,000 worth on the day!

A lively celebration was led by the choir, musicians and liturgy leaders from St. John Fisher Catholic High School, Dewsbury who created a wonderful atmosphere of celebration and fun in keeping with the tradition of the Good Shepherd. The theme explored in the liturgy was Noah's Ark from the perspective of the dove. The message was simple: to be God's children we must be like the dove that brought hope to Noah and his family.

Though the Cathedral was full and it took a long time for all the schools to approach the Bishop with their cheques, St John Fishers School from Dewsbury made sure that everyone joined in the activity singing.

All during Lent the children had been collecting in their schools, money for Catholic Care and now was the time to present it to the Bishop. In his words to them he thanked them for all the hard work they had done to raise so much money and said how proud he was of them for all they had done - once again they had proved that they would do all these things for children who were less fortunate than themselves.

After the service a lot of the schools took the opportunity to have their photograph taken with the Bishop and take part in some well deserved refreshments.

Annual Appeal in the Churches

Each year the Diocese of Leeds allows us to make an appeal for funds to undertake its work within the Diocese. This work is a vital sign of the presence of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church within today's often difficult and unwelcoming society.

Many of you will know of our social workers based in schools and parishes, working alongside teachers and priest. They offer help and support to children and families in need. Such work centres on issues such as family breakdown, self-esteem, anger, loss, bereavement. If you're interested in hearing more in your parish about our work, please contact us on 0113 388 5400 to discuss or send us an email karen.byram@catholic-care.org.uk, and we'll be in touch

2008 was our Tenth Annual Appeal held in the Churches of the Diocese over the weekend of 1st and 2nd March. So far we have received £17,078, last year's total response was £19,641.

The Bishop as always is supportive and appreciative of the tremendous efforts that the parishes make for this appeal.

Children's Residential Home Case Study A

Ben has lived at our children's residential home since January 2005. During his time with us Ben's life has, like so many children, had its ups and downs. He has experienced difficult times medically, personally and in his school. He struggled with life and fought it at every opportunity. He had a negative view of school and was not reaching the potential we knew was in him. During the past year with the support of staff and other professionals involved in his care, Ben has attended school full time achieving 100% attendance and has just completed 8 GCSE's and he is hoping to attain Grade C or above. In order to complete this successful period in his life Ben has recently secured a place at the City College of Music to start in September 2008. Everyone he lives with and who are part of Ben's life are delighted and would like to say, 'Well done! Ben'. We will also be alongside him to celebrate his next achievement.

Mental Health Service Case Study B

"I am glad to have the chance to live here - it's a lovely place to live. I like the independence without being isolated; I like the freedom here, visitors to stay, company from tenants and staff. It's good having people to talk to when I have a problem."

Geoff moved into the house in 1991, when he was 30 years old. He had had a period of 2 years in hospital where he describes himself as being very poorly. Geoff found the most upsetting thing was hearing voices, which were instructing him to do things which were totally out of his character. He had been living with his parents, but the opportunity arose for a flat here, and Geoff and his parents were very keen for him to try independent living. During his time here, Geoff has always kept very busy, doing such things as gardening, dry stone walling, cooking and bell ringing at the Cathedral; one of his walls in his flat is full of certificates of his achievements. Geoff is a regular 'sidesman' at the Cathedral and he goes to the gym every week. He also enjoys building models and has numerous in his flat. He also attends a MIND social group throughout the week. Geoff's mother and grandmother live near Wakefield and he visits them regularly and occasionally his mum comes to stay here, so they can visit the local tourist attractions together. Geoff says that living here has made his life so much better; he still hears voices but can now cope with them due to the help and support he receives from all the staff.

Learning Disabilities Case Study C

When David's mother moved into a residential nursing home, he was unable to remain living at home on his own. David visited a number of potential placements and chose to live at a Catholic Care residential home moving there in February 2007.

Along with the support of the staff and David's key-worker working closely with him, David has settled in well. David's mother lives very close by and this means David can maintain contact and visit her. He is enjoying living in confidence with increased interaction within his new home and in the wider community.

This is evident following the work he and his key-worker have put into developing his personal plans. David's interest in keeping the garden in his new home clear of leaves and rubbish was recognised and incorporated into his personal plan and has led to David getting involved with an organisation (through a website) that goes out into the local area, clearing litter. David really enjoys this activity and not only feels a sense of achievement but is also making a positive contribution to the community. His growing self-confidence and enjoyment of living in with others is bringing new opportunities both David and his mother are delighted about.