



**caritas**

diocese of hallam

promoting care and social action

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Caritas Diocese of Hallam was launched May 2018 replacing Hallam Caring Services. Its function is to:

- 1 Promote and manage care services and social action projects.
- 2 Offer support when requested to the parish based services identified in a survey undertaken in 2017.
- 3 Affiliate to Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), an agency of the [Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales](#).

## **CURRENT SERVICES**

### **Schools Service**

Our qualified Counsellors are contracted to work in five high and eleven primary schools. Staff and pupils have been well served by our counsellors who have enthusiastically embraced Zoom, Teams and Skype to maintain the professional standards of delivery for which we were recognised in 2018 by Yorkshire and Humberside Enterprise Awards. Approximately four thousand sessions (4000) have been delivered to children and young people in our schools in 2020.

We also responded to a number of other Diocesan schools who requested help for issues which emerged as a direct result of the pandemic. Staff supervision has also been provided in two of our High Schools.

### **Diocesan Counselling Service + University Chaplaincy Counselling Service**

Our team responds to enquiries across the Diocese and also take referrals from St Wilfrid's Centre, Carmel Care and the University Catholic Chaplaincy. They use a variety of therapies - CBT, Mindfulness and person centred counselling. We respond to people suffering with anxiety and stress caused by sudden loss and bereavement, abuse, depression, relationship difficulties and redundancy; they may feel isolated, bullied or have suicidal thoughts. The service is provided free of charge to clients of St Wilfrid's, Carmel and the Chaplaincy. Other clients are asked charged a nominal amount and the unwaged, free of charge. Requests for this service have increased by twenty-five percent this year.

We are able to maintain this service by providing supervised placements for trained counsellors who need to acquire practice hours to obtain accredited status.

### **Pastoral Care for Retired Clergy**

A senior member of Caritas provides practical as well as emotional support to retired clergy- approximately twenty-eight hours per month. Wherever possible this takes place face to face but during lockdown regular contact has been maintained by telephone. Feedback shows how much this is valued by our retired clergy.

### **Counselling and Pastoral Accompaniment for Catholic Clergy (The JP2 Directory)**

A number of our counsellors offer counselling when requested to clergy from the Diocese nationally and internationally.

### **Carmel Care**

Carmel provides a welcoming and supportive space for those experiencing social isolation, loneliness and or addiction.

Before COVID struck, Carmel had launched a monthly Luncheon Club which proved very popular. During closure, telephoned contact has been maintained with service users, and food donated by Morrisons has been distributed. The remainder was taken to a Food Bank in Sheffield which our services users accessed. Some non- perishables have been stored for when Carmel reopens. Food and gifts hampers were delivered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to people who live alone and who but for COVID would have spent Christmas Day at Carmel.

### **Service to the Deaf**

A Steering Group, chaired by Joe McNally (Volunteer), aims to provide signed Masses in all deaneries of the Diocese. A number of people have already expressed an interest in being trained in sacramental signing, and we have made links with the Catholic Deaf Association to enable this.

### **Marriage and Family Life (an area of work in the Department for Social Justice)**

#### **Community Sponsorship for Refugees**

A very active Steering Group, chaired by Annette Dews, has made significant progress with this project which has attracted individuals from a number of parishes. Annette and Clare Gardner (Volunteers) are members of CSAN's steering group for refugees. Working with CSAN it is hoped to eventually welcome a refugee family to Hallam and support their integration with ongoing practical help.

#### **Marriage Preparation**

Thanks to the wonders of Zoom, and Charles and Jane Perryman (volunteer trainers), we have increased our team of trained marriage presenters to thirteen. A married couple in Barnsley are now ready to offer face to face marriage preparation when normal service resumes. In keeping with other providers we anticipate providing online marriage preparation in 2021 using our diocesan programme 'Preparing for a Lifetime Together'.

#### **Restored Lives (Support for Separated and Divorced)**

This six session course is now available online.

### **St Wilfrid's Day Centre Sheffield**

The Centre provides practical help and support for homeless and vulnerable people.

A Steering Committee has been established to provide general oversight and support. Caritas is represented on this committee and provides Line Management to the Director of the Centre.

## **Safeguarding**

Caritas provides Line Management for the Safeguarding Team.

## **Gubay Food Programme**

The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, working with the Bishops Conference for England and Wales, approached dioceses at the start of the COVID pandemic offering grants to alleviate food poverty. Caritas Hallam received a grant of £30,000 in July. As we had never run a Diocesan wide food programme before we turned for help to our friends in the SVP to who work across the Diocese. Working in partnership with the SVP, schools, the Counselling Service and Cantley Neighbourhood Centre we have disbursed this generous gift in every deanery of the diocese. We hope to receive another grant in 2021 to maintain this vital work.

## **Rainbows Bereavement Support GB**

This is an independent national charity which supports children and young people who have suffered significant loss. Caritas Hallam makes an annual contribution from the Good Shepherd Appeal to maintain Rainbows Bereavement SY.

## **Pathways Chesterfield**

This was established with a bequest from Desmond Praeter Trust who stipulated it was to be used to provide a local service for homeless and vulnerable people.

The former Hallam Caring Services helped to establish this service which later became a separate trust. Pathways is an affiliated project. It is hoped to establish a meaningful link with St Wilfrid's Centre.

## **FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Caring in an Ageing Society**

A response is being considered to the challenges for the Catholic community and care services in an ageing society and the 'Care in Time' report.

### **Cantley Neighbourhood Centre**

Owing to COVID, the Neighbourhood Centre closed its doors to the public in March 2020. With help from ASDA and emergency supplies, the inside of the Neighbourhood Centre was transformed into a Foodbank and following Government regulations, food was distributed food on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Angela Fox (Volunteer Co-ordinator) said, "We are grateful to Caritas Hallam for the substantial donation of £1,000 which came from the Gubay Trust. This allowed us to provide provisions for one thousand, five hundred and forty-five (1,545) households. We also made doorstep deliveries to the housebound and those suffering from COVID".

Caritas has also been instrumental in helping to draw up Terms of References between the Diocese of Hallam and the Neighbourhood Centre. It is anticipated that in 2021 it will provide even greater support for our local community.

## **Finance and Fundraising**

As a response to the pandemic the Trustees have established a Fundraising Advisory Board which advises the Trustees on fundraising activities and is developing expertise to support proposals from parishes and other groups.

Caritas welcomes this development and which will help us professionalise fundraising and ensure bids and grants are equitably distributed across the diocese.

Working with the new group Caritas has received grants from His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Arundel, All Churches Trust, The Cutlers Trust, and Sheffield City Council who have all contributed to Caritas projects across the Diocese. The NHS also funded a pilot supporting vulnerable young people during the long summer vacation.

This is a new development and opens up opportunities for the future.

The impact of COVID has severely depleted our limited reserves, and we will have to withstand the significant shortfall due to the Pandemic. Bishop Ralph has decided to send a letter to schools and parishes stressing the importance of these two appeals for Caritas during Lent.