Charity registration number: 1167237

CARING HANDS IN THE VALE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Taylorhobbs Limited
Cherry Trees Barn
Drakes Broughton
Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 2AL

Caring Hands in the Vale
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Caring Hands in the Vale
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

The aim of our charity, Caring Hands in the Vale, is as follows;

The prevention and relief of poverty and to relieve the needs of those who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of their social and economic circumstances in Evesham and the surrounding area by such means as the trustees shall from time to time decide.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Public Benefit

The activities of Caring Hands are all for the benefit of the public. There is a target group of clients, demonstrating genuine need, who must be referred by local agencies. Anyone who feels the need can attend the diner (operating Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), and we cater for the lonely and senior citizens as well as those in financial need.

Everyone referred to Caring Hands receives the support they need unconditionally, non-judgementally and totally free of charge. The geographical area we cover is the Vale of Evesham, although we do sometimes receive referrals from outside this area. We received 1590 referrals during the year, another increase on the previous year (1575). Referrals are in addition to the attendees at the diner, who are all self-referred.

We have in excess of 60 volunteers all of whom make a very valuable and essential contribution to the work of Caring Hands.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Main Achievements

We have provided food for a large number of families in financial crisis and signposted them to additional help to work their way out of their situation.

Service users work to become self-sufficient which benefits the wider community with less poverty and homeless needs.

We have provided rooms where other organisations can meet with their service users which may well not have happened without.

Our main achievements during the year are:

1) Continued expansion of use by third party organisations at The Lighthouse (main premises).
2) Expansion of own services including laundry, showers and practical help with cooking on a budget training days and recipe booklets with ingredients.
3) Fulfilling all requests for resource parcels.

Full statistics are contained in the Community Outreach Manager's Annual Report which follows the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial Review

Financial Position

The trustees have reviewed the reserves policy and consider that due to the known level of monthly recurring income the minimum funds required are the amount required to continue the activities of the charity for three months (previously four months)

Total cash reserves at 31 March 2026 amount to £43,046 (2025; £59,050) including restricted funds £20,632 (2025: £29,363) and unrestricted funds £22,414 (2025: £29,687).

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Financial Position - continued

Last year we noted that there was a need to generate significantly more unrestricted income if current salary commitments were to be maintained. One of the two part-time Support Workers taken on in February 2025 left in March 2026 and although we have since secured funding to cover two-thirds of the cost of employing two Support Workers for the next three years, we have had to make the difficult decision to make redundant the role of Deputy Community Outreach Manager and also to implement other cost-cutting measures.

In recent years we have received significant funding from Wychavon District Council's Household Support Fund (HSF) and this has been an essential part of funding the services that we provide. The HSF has been replaced by the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) and currently we are waiting to hear what funding might be made available from either the CRF or any other of Wychavon's funds.

There are no funds in deficit at present.

Our principal sources in deficit of income are:

- Regular giving
- Grants
- Donations
- Fundraising events such as Quiz, Tabletop sales, breakfast, and other meal events

Our main risks are:

- Reliance on one-off grants
- Loss of key staff including Trustees - we would benefit from a greater number of Trustees with a wider range of expertise

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution.

Trustee Selection Methods
The trustees are elected by existing trustees. Selection is via application form, interview and references.

The day-to-day management of Caring Hands is undertaken by the Community Outreach Manager. This role includes general administration, line management of staff, overall supervision of volunteers, liaising with referral agencies, developing relationships with local churches, community and other organisations, which can include talks, school assemblies and church services, finances and ensuring all necessary resources required are in place.

We are continuing to look to add Trustees to our group to give us wider expertise in the areas which we address and areas such as IT and Fund raising.

On appointment, Trustees undertake an induction meeting with the chair of trustees to provide full details of the charity, any role which the new trustee is to undertake and further meetings as necessary.

We have a large networking base with both referrals agencies and other organisations involved with our service user base.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

S A Wilderspin - Chair
M S Hewitt - Trustee
D M Nicholls - Trustee (resigned 16/07/2026)
J R King - Trustee
S R Mills - Trustee (resigned 10/06/2026)

Charity Number

1167237

Principal Address

The Lighthouse
Vine Street
Evesham
Worcestershire
WR11 4RE

Independent Examiner

Laura Carter AAT
Taylorhobbs Limited
AAT
Cherry Trees Barn
Drakes Broughton
Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 2AL

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Stephen Wilder spin

S A Wilderspin

Trustee
07/09/2026

Steve Hewitt

M S Hewitt

Trustee

Caring Hands in the Vale
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Caring Hands in the Vale
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Caring Hands in the Vale (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Laura Carter

Laura Carter AAT

07/09/2026
Cherry Trees Barn
Drakes Broughton
Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 2AL

Caring Hands in the Vale
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026 Total funds	2025 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	47,005	40,289	87,294	92,130
Charitable activities:					
Charitable Activities		29,041	2,168	31,209	30,075
Investments	**4**	340	-	340	681
		76,386	42,457	118,843	122,886
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:	**5**				
Other		(1,948)	-	(1,948)	(769)
Charitable Activities		(82,511)	(66,800)	(149,311)	(144,393)
		(84,459)	(66,800)	(151,259)	(145,162)
NET EXPENDITURE		(8,073)	(24,343)	(32,416)	(22,276)
Transfers between funds	**15**	(371)	371	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(8,444)	(23,972)	(32,416)	(22,276)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		53,072	479,463	532,535	554,811
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**15**	44,628	455,491	500,119	532,535

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Caring Hands in the Vale
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds
		£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	36,804	55,326	92,130
Charitable activities:				
Charitable Activities		27,882	2,193	30,075
Investments	**4**	681	-	681
		65,367	57,519	122,886
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities:	**5**			
Other		(769)	-	(769)
Charitable Activities		(80,531)	(63,862)	(144,393)
		(81,301)	(63,861)	(145,162)
NET EXPENDITURE		(15,934)	(6,342)	(22,276)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(15,934)	(6,342)	(22,276)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		69,006	485,805	554,811
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**15**	53,072	479,463	532,535

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Caring Hands in the Vale
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	**10**	20,514	433,519	454,033	466,883
		20,514	433,519	454,033	466,883
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	**11**	-	1,340	1,340	5,370
Debtors	**12**	3,371	-	3,371	3,164
Cash at bank and in hand		22,414	20,632	43,046	59,051
		25,785	21,972	47,757	67,585
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	**13**	(1,671)	-	(1,671)	(1,933)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		24,114	21,972	46,086	65,652
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		44,628	455,491	500,119	532,535
NET ASSETS		44,628	455,491	500,119	532,535
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				455,491	479,463
Unrestricted Funds				44,628	53,072
TOTAL FUNDS	**15**			500,119	532,535

On behalf of the board

Stephen Wilder spin

S A Wilderspin

Trustee
07/09/2026

Steve Hewitt

M S Hewitt

Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

1. General Information

Caring Hands in the Vale is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1167237. The principal address is The Lighthouse, Vine Street, Evesham , Worcestershire, WR11 4RE.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Going Concern Disclosure

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4. Incoming Resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.
Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.
Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.
Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.
A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met.
Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognitition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.
The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.5. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including supoort costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basisi of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance and support costs
Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with the regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

2.6. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold	2% straight line on cost less residual value
Plant & Machinery	20% reducing balance
Motor Vehicles	20% reducing balance

2.7. Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Work in progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

At the end of each reporting period stocks are assessed for impairment. If an item of stock is impaired, the identified stock is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell and an impairment charge is recognised in the statement of financial activities. Where a reversal of the impairment is required the impairment charge is reversed, up to the original impairment loss, and is recognised as a credit in the statement of financial activities.

2.8. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as all its income is charitable and applied for charitable purposes.

2.10. Employee Benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock of fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2.11. Pensions

The charity operates a defined pension contribution scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026 Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	32,005	14,039	46,044
Legacies	-	-	-
Grants	15,000	26,250	41,250
	47,005	40,289	87,294

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Donations and gifts	29,804	26,434	56,238
Legacies	7,000	-	7,000
Grants	-	28,892	28,892
	36,804	55,326	92,130

The following grants are included within the total income from donations and legacies above:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	-	-
John Martin's Charity	-	3,750	3,750
Evesham Relief in Need	-	1,500	1,500
Strengthening Worcestershire Fund	-	-	-
Wychavon District Council	-	20,000	20,000
Other Grants	-	1,000	1,000
Eveson Trust	15,000	-	15,000
	15,000	26,250	41,250

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	2,500	2,500
John Martin's Charity	-	2,000	2,000
Evesham Relief in Need	-	2,000	2,000
Strengthening Worcestershire Fund	-	4,000	4,000
Wychavon District Council	-	17,000	17,000
Other Grants	-	1,392	1,392
Eveson Trust	-	-	-
	-	28,892	28,892

4. Investment Income

	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Unrestricted funds £
Bank interest receivable	340	681

5. **Analysis of Expenditure**

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs (see note 6)	2026 Total
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	148,050	1,261	149,311
Other	1,608	340	1,948
	149,658	1,601	151,259

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs (see note 6)	2025 Total
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	143,193	1,200	144,393
Other	769	-	769
	143,962	1,200	145,162

6. **Support Costs**

	Charitable Activities	Other	2026 Total
	£	£	£
Depreciation	1	340	341
Governance costs	1,260	-	1,260
	1,261	340	1,601

	2025 Charitable Activities
	£
Governance costs	1,200

7. **Independent Examiner's Remuneration**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,260	1,200

8. **Staff Costs**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	70,938	60,308
Other pension costs	1,823	1,526
	72,761	61,834

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

9. **Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees during the year was: 3 (2025: 3)

10. **Tangible Assets**

	Land & Property Freehold	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
As at 1 April 2025	486,735	23,715	9,450	519,900
Disposals	-	(1,379)	-	(1,379)
As at 31 March 2026	486,735	22,336	9,450	518,521
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2025	34,072	10,763	8,182	53,017
Provided during the period	9,735	2,522	253	12,510
Disposals	-	(1,039)	-	(1,039)
As at 31 March 2026	43,807	12,246	8,435	64,488
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2026	442,928	10,090	1,015	454,033
As at 1 April 2025	452,663	12,952	1,268	466,883

11. **Stocks**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Stock	1,340	5,370

12. **Debtors**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	3,371	3,164

13. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other creditors	138	106
Accruals and deferred income	1,533	1,827
	1,671	1,933

14. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £1,823 (2025: £1,526).

At the statement of financial position date contributions of £NIL, were due to the fund.

15. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	53,072	76,386	(84,459)	(371)	44,628
Restricted funds					
Household/Food Banks	13,065	20,353	(26,629)	(2,098)	4,691
Baby Bank	2,159	-	(966)	(327)	866
Homelessness	1,150	-	(867)	-	283
Diner	4,114	606	(5,573)	2,443	1,590
Shopping & Eating on a budget course	278	-	(19)	-	259
Drop in Centre/Lighthouse	3,239	-	(179)	351	3,411
Property	433,863	-	(9,335)	-	424,528
Cookery Skills	699	-	(321)	-	378
Drop in Centre/Lighthouse - capitalise	11,238	-	(2,248)	-	8,990
Christmas	2,617	3,881	(2,451)	1	4,048
Salaries	6,750	15,167	(16,361)	-	5,556
Utilities	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Insurance	-	200	(200)	-	-
Resource Bank - General/Pet Food Bank	291	1,050	(451)	1	891
Total restricted funds	479,463	42,457	(66,800)	371	455,491
Total funds	532,535	118,843	(151,259)	-	500,119

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	69,006	65,367	(81,301)	-	53,072
Restricted funds					
Household/Food Banks	13,093	13,367	(25,443)	12,048	13,065
Baby Bank	2,471	250	(562)	-	2,159
Homelessness	4	2,194	(1,048)	-	1,150
Diner	2,518	5,232	(5,703)	2,067	4,114
Shopping & Eating on a budget course	312	-	(34)	-	278
Drop in Centre/Lighthouse	9,079	3,804	(5,429)	(4,215)	3,239
Property	443,197	-	(9,334)	-	433,863
Cookery Skills	699	-	-	-	699
National Lottery Community Fund	10	-	-	(10)	-
Household Support Grant	2,105	12,000	-	(14,105)	-
Drop in Centre/Lighthouse - capitalise	9,832	-	(2,809)	4,215	11,238
Christmas	2,485	3,399	(3,267)	-	2,617
Salaries	-	15,433	(8,683)	-	6,750
Utilities	-	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Insurance	-	200	(200)	-	-
Resource Bank - General/Pet Food Bank	-	440	(149)	-	291
Total restricted funds	485,805	57,519	(63,861)	-	479,463
Total funds	554,811	122,886	(145,162)	-	532,535

16. **Transactions with Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

During the year, expenses were reimbursed to the trustees, having been incurred on behalf of the charity:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other Expenses	-	1,671

Number of trustees reimbursed for expenses during the year was 1 (2025: 1)

17. **Related Party Disclosures**

The charity has taken advantage of exemption, under 33.1A of the Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", not to disclose transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

Three trustees of Caring Hands are also trustees of Vale of Evesham Community Church (VECC). Caring Hands shared the premises of VECC in previous years but this year, following the move of all operations to The Lighthouse, only the church office has been used for the storage of some records. VECC's monthly donation to Caring Hands has remained unchanged at £800. The total amount paid in the year was £9,600 (2025: £9,600). This is in furtherance of one of VECC's aims which is 'to assist and relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are sick or in poor health'.

Diane Bennett is not a trustee of Caring Hands but is a trustee of VECC. Diane is employed full-time by Caring Hands as Community Outreach Manager and is also available to assist with VECC's operations and activities on a voluntary basis.

Caring Hands paid expenses of £152.96 (2025: £109.81) on behalf of VECC and this was reimbursed to Caring Hands during the year.

VECC received payments totalling £562.50 (2025: £531.25) intended for Caring Hands and this was passed on to Caring Hands during the year.

Caring Hands in the Vale
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	46,044	56,238
Legacies	-	7,000
Grants	41,250	28,892
	87,294	92,130
Charitable Activities:		
Charitable Activities		
Standing Orders	23,995	23,800
Fundraising	2,505	2,944
Expenses Recharged	153	110
Other Income	1,228	400
Gift Aid Received	3,328	2,821
	31,209	30,075
Investments		
Bank interest receivable	340	681
	340	681
	118,843	122,886
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable Activities:		
Charitable Activities		
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	(4,035)	(3,900)
Wages and salaries	(70,938)	(60,308)
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	(1,823)	(1,526)
Christmas Hampers	(2,172)	(3,267)
Resources	(37,934)	(31,203)
Diner	(5,573)	(6,174)
Vehicle running costs	(1,630)	(2,532)
Utilities and rates	(4,472)	(4,335)
Equipment under £250	(565)	(3,772)
Lighthouse Contract	-	(55)
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	(611)	(931)
Support and administration costs	(5,787)	(11,900)
Depreciation	(12,510)	(13,290)
Deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(1)	-
Independent examiner's fees	(1,260)	(1,200)
	(149,311)	(144,393)

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Other		
Sundry	(1,608)	(769)
Deficit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(340)	-
	(1,948)	(769)
	(151,259)	(145,162)
NET EXPENDITURE	(32,416)	(22,276)

Annual Report 2025-2026

Caring Hands



In the Vale

Making a Difference in our Local Community

Registered Charity Number: 1167237

Caring Hands in the Vale
Annual Report 2025-2026

During 2026, Caring Hands in the Vale marks twenty-three years of making a difference in our local community.

Caring Hands has two main aims:

1. To provide emergency support to families and individuals in crisis situations.
2. To provide services and projects that provide pathways to progression to help families and individuals build resilience and move out of their crisis situation to a more stable position.

In our last Annual Report, we reported that the 'cost of living crisis' continued to have a significant impact on our local community and in turn on the services provided by Caring Hands. Rising food costs and utility costs continued to be the main drivers with many of our service users barely having enough money to provide even the basics. This situation has not improved and in fact is deteriorating.

Core Crisis Services

Drop-in Diner:

The drop-in diner is open three times a week with a free two-course meal on Monday and Wednesday and a light lunch on Friday, during term time. Individuals who access the diner are from a variety of backgrounds which now also operates as a 'warm hub' for many, where the meal is not the main reason they come in, often seeking friendship and a social environment.

We provide over 150 meals each week through the three lunch sessions and during the year we ran 114 sessions.

The drop-in diner provides several different opportunities for individuals who access the service:

- A meal – a free two course meal on a Monday and Wednesday lunchtime
- A light lunch on Fridays
- A community pantry with surplus fresh produce, non-perishable items which are past their 'best before' dates and other donations that are not suitable for inclusion in food parcels. This not only reduces waste but supports individuals with food items and reduces the need for a referral for a food parcel. During the year we ran over 100 community pantry sessions.
- Networking with other front-line agencies to organise drop-in support, such as homelessness outreach teams, harm reduction, housing and benefits advice.

Case Study

M was homeless and placed in temporary accommodation in Evesham. We supported M with food and household packs and became one of our lovely team of volunteers.

M now has their own tenancy and is continuing to volunteer with us whilst looking for permanent employment. As M has been volunteering with us, we will be able to support with a reference for future employment.

- Signposting service users to appropriate services to provide support for their ongoing needs and to provide pathways to progression.
- Volunteering Opportunities – individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds provide invaluable volunteer support. We also provide work experience placements for several local middle and high schools, as well as the local college. We currently provide a placement for a supported intern from Pershore College.
- Many individuals who access the drop-in diner do so as they are looking for company and support, especially those who are socially isolated. We have seen a significant

increase in the numbers of more senior members of our community joining the drop-in diner sessions.
- We are able to offer money guidance support to individuals (not money advice) and signpost to relevant support.

Resource Banks:

Caring Hands in the Vale is a 'multi-bank', offering five different 'banks' of resources, which are open five days a week. To access each of these 'banks' a service user requires a referral from a network of well over one hundred and thirty referral partner agencies. This is to ensure that our service users are receiving the help, support and advice they need to address the issues they have, which have resulted in the need for a referral to us. During the year we ran 247 food bank sessions.

In partnership with Blue Cross and Pets at Home in Evesham the pet food bank, which provides cat and dog food, has now been in operation for three years, and during that time has supported an average of 350 pets each year. The main aim of the pet food bank is to support individuals and families to be able to keep their pets and help shelters not become overwhelmed with surrendered pets.

Caring Hands has been the recipient of grants from the Household Support Fund. However, the Household Support Fund closed at the end of March 2026. As well as supporting the food and household banks, this has allowed us to purchase some supermarket vouchers to support individuals and families where lack of, or restricted cooking facilities, allergens and religious or cultural dietary needs challenge our ability to provide items from the food bank.

The aim of the food bank has always been to provide short-term crisis support for people in our local community. However, we are now seeing more families and individuals being referred more often as they struggle to cope with the increased cost of living. This is something which challenges our services, and we continue to explore further ways

of providing additional support to our service users in addition to short-term crisis support.



Caring Hands continues to produce its Food Bank Recipe Booklet, which is available free of charge. The ladies at Stratford Soroptimists have continued their monthly 'Lets Cook' packages which include a recipe card and the ingredients needed to make the item, which are a mixture of fresh and non-perishable items. This often includes a free kitchen item. We have included all the recipes into a 'Let's Cook' Booklet, which is again provided free of charge.

In conjunction with Evesham Food Bank Forum, we have updated the Food Aid Projects leaflet covering the Vale of Evesham. This gives information about the various Food Aid Projects, how to access these services and contact details.

Statistics

During 2025-2026 it will come as no surprise that we received the most referrals ever in twenty-three years of operation, continuing the year on year upward trend in our statistics.

In total we received 1590 referrals for 680 different 'households' from 84 different referral partner agencies. This provided a total of 1613 food parcels for 3087 people, providing 59094 meals.

The overall number of food parcels provided is higher than the 2024-2025 period, having exceeded 1600 food parcels in one year for the first time.

Of the people we were able to support 36% were children (under eighteen years of age).

During the 2025-2026 period, we supported significantly more single individuals with food parcels than families, continuing the trend of the previous financial year.

Reasons for referral are covered by seven broad categories – benefit issues; homelessness and housing; low incomes and debt; health issues, refugee and asylum seeker support, domestic abuse support and crisis situations.

You will observe from the charts at the end of this report that 48% of referrals were due to low incomes of which 6% were families and individuals who are in work. This was actually a decrease on the last financial year. Benefit issues (sanctions, benefit delays, benefit changes) accounted for 6% of referrals, which is the same as the last two years. Referrals for homelessness and housing related issues were 21%, debt 6%, health issues 5%, domestic abuse support 3% and crisis situations 2%.

Case Study

E is a long-term 'entrenched' rough sleeper who tends to be itinerant and only bases himself in a single location for a few months at a time. The housing outreach team supported E to open a bank account, and we acted as a care of address for post, which is picked up regularly. E was also supported by housing outreach to apply for UC and attend appointments with the Job Centre. E regularly uses the resources at The Lighthouse, showers, laundry, phone charging, drop-in diner, community pantry and homelessness bank. E regularly checks in with the outreach teams and calls in to see the staff and volunteers at The Lighthouse. E has chosen currently, not to access long-term accommodation. We continue to support E with day-to-day needs.

We continue to see an increase in referrals for long-term illness, mostly due to mental health crises. However, we have noted that we are receiving referrals for individuals who are awaiting treatment or an appointment for surgery for medical conditions.

Refugee and asylum seeker support is 9% of referrals, which reflects the use of Evesham Hotel and dispersal accommodation available in Evesham.

Case Study

V is an economic migrant to the area, having lived here for several years, but his application for leave to remain was initially refused. This resulted in him eventually rough sleeping. We have supported V with food, lunches, clothing, showers and laundry and he has accessed the drop-in services available at The Lighthouse.

V has now made a successful application for leave to remain and is now working towards employment and permanent accommodation, whilst still receiving support from Caring Hands and outreach teams.

Referrals to the Baby Bank have remained roughly the same.

Referrals to the Household Bank again shows a slight decrease. This is due to us placing a restriction on some items of only one referral a month.

It is important to state that the reasons for referral can be varied and complex. Often there is more than one reason for a referral, so our statistics record the most prevalent issue at the time of referral. For instance, an individual struggling on a low income may also have issues around debt, benefit delays or long-term illness and potential homelessness.

Our charts at the end of this report reveal that referrals to the homelessness bank show some fluctuation. Due to the incredible work undertaken by the outreach teams that cover Evesham and partnership working, individuals are identified and supported relatively quickly.

We have additional temporary accommodation services available in Evesham.

We continue to work closely with the outreach teams, accommodation services and are regularly involved in rough sleeper group meetings.

Community Engagement/Awareness

We were able to provide a number of awareness sessions free of charge to the local community, local community groups and also our volunteers. These sessions included Shopping and Eating on a Budget, Homelessness Awareness, Loan Shark Awareness, Dementia Awareness and Basic Drug and Alcohol Awareness.

We are always looking for other organisations to visit to give us talks and information sessions, which are appropriate to the services we provide.

We are now able to offer basic cookery skills sessions. This is not a fixed course but are 1:1 sessions, which are organised to meet the needs of the individual taking part, having first undertaken an assessment of their skills and needs. We have so far supported two individuals with cookery skills sessions.

Case Study

H came to The Lighthouse having arrived in Evesham after fleeing an abusive relationship. We signposted H to Wychavon and to West Mercia Women's Aid. Initially H was placed in emergency temporary accommodation and we supported with food parcels and household packs along with laundry facilities. H now has a tenancy and we helped with a 'starter pack' whilst they settled in.



Caring Hands participates in several community events during the year to raise awareness of the services we offer.

This included the Primary Care Network Community Engagement Event, Battle of Evesham Medieval Market, Battle of Evesham Festival Weekend, Wychavon Community Network Conference together with the Christmas Tree Festival held at All Saints Church, Evesham.

We have been able to undertake presentations to a number of local organisations and community groups plus several school assemblies.



We took part in a Christmas Fayre in the Market Place in Evesham with the support of the amazing Asum Santa, where we ran a Santa's Grotto to raise funds for Caring Hands.



We were delighted to be invited to take part in the Community Carol Service held at All Saints and organised by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire and The Royal Foundation. Diane Bennett did a reading during the service representing Caring Hands.

Christmas 2025



We were delighted to be able to provide a Christmas Day Meal again in 2025, possible due to the number of volunteers who were willing to give up their time on Christmas Day to bless others.

We provided around sixty meals, including a number of meals which were provided to one of the local sheltered housing schemes and also a domiciliary care service.



We donated 250 Christmas Hampers, Christmas Goody Bags and Christmas Gift Bags. This provided support for 450 people, around 60% of whom were children (under eighteen years of age).



We were delighted that The Valley again gave us the use of one of their units to put the hampers together.

Due to the generosity of local churches, organisations and individuals, we were able to include small gifts in many of the Christmas Hampers, especially for children.

Donations

We continue to receive incredible support from our local community, shops, supermarkets, families, individuals, schools, churches and community groups. We continue to be amazed and in awe of the incredible generosity of our supporters.

We received support from many schools, pre-schools and churches with donations of produce from their Harvest Celebrations, which as always is an incredible boost to our stock levels.

We were blessed by the many organisations, schools, families and individuals, who undertook a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' and Christmas collections which provided wonderful support for the Christmas Hampers.

During 2025 there were food bank collections at Evesham Tesco, Evesham Waitrose and Evesham Morrisons. The collections at Evesham Morrisons were organised by Rotary in the Vale, to whom we are always incredibly grateful for their support. The collections all help to boost our stock levels during the year and our Christmas activities.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in our local community who have generously supported Caring Hands in the Vale through another really challenging and difficult year. We definitely would not have been able to provide the support we have without you.

Volunteers

We continue to boast a wonderful team of volunteers, without whom the work of Caring Hands in the Vale simply would not happen. During the last twelve months we have also seen another influx of new volunteers and we are enjoying getting to know everyone.
We produce a monthly Volunteer Newsletter to keep our volunteers informed of developments and events.

Our volunteers currently provide over 9,000 hours volunteering each year across all our different projects and events. If these hours were paid at the 2026 national living wage it would amount to over £114,000.



We are delighted to say that our whole volunteer team was awarded a Wychavon Community Star Award. This was presented by Cllr Mark Goodge, the Chair of Wychavon, at an event at The Lighthouse. This was followed by an Afternoon Tea for our volunteers and visitors, which included the Mayor and Mayoress of Evesham.

We endeavour to organise a volunteer get-together at least once a year so that we can spend time together and get to know each other whilst celebrating the incredible work that they all do.

In addition, we can support work experience placements from a number of schools and colleges plus volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

All our volunteers are a blessing to Caring Hands, and we literally would not be able to do what we do without them.

Homelessness

Homelessness remains a significant issue within the Vale of Evesham. Caring Hands in the Vale is a member of the Wychavon Homeless Partnership and Wychavon Rough Sleeper Group.

Due to this partnership working and encouraging the community to use Streetlink as a way of notifying the relevant organisations about individuals who are rough sleeping, there have been many positive outcomes. Rough sleeper numbers have stabilised although we do support several 'entrenched' rough sleepers.

The outreach teams which cover Evesham have been doing an incredible job in supporting individuals, in addition to which we have temporary accommodation services in Evesham. We work closely with all these services, providing as much support as we are able. We support the outreach teams when SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocols) are active. This is when the temperature is at 0 degrees or lower in the winter and 30 degrees or higher in the summer.

The Lighthouse is able to offer showers, laundry, clothing, hot and cold drinks on request, lockers, health and wellbeing hub, homelessness

handbook, phone charging and to be a care of address, in addition the homelessness and other resource banks, drop-in meals and community pantry.

During 2025 we ran another very well attended Homelessness Awareness Session with the support of Wychavon District Council for the local community, our volunteers, church members and Evesham Street Pastors. This highlighted what homelessness is and the services available in the Evesham area to support and help individuals facing or experiencing homelessness.

We have been asked to undertake this presentation for different organisations, which gives us the opportunity to raise the issue amongst the wider community.

Our Homelessness Handbook has been updated and reprinted. It is available to local organisations, referral partner agencies, churches and particularly to anyone who is worried about being made homeless, is at risk of becoming homeless or is homeless. We have produced a leaflet which details all the services we offer for individuals who are homeless or rough sleeping.

Networking

Networking continues to be a significant and important part of the work of Caring Hands in the Vale. This helps us to know about and understand the work of other support agencies and organisations in Evesham. We are then able to signpost and refer individuals and families to relevant organisations for the support that they need.

We participate in several networks including Evesham Food Bank Forum, Evesham Charity Network, Wychavon Homeless Partnership,

Case Study

We recorded S in a case study in last year's annual report. We have known S for several years and we supported him to access the housing outreach team who placed him in emergency accommodation and now has his own tenancy.

He is still in this tenancy, managing it successfully with support from his social worker.

S now has custody of his child, who has additional needs. We continue to support them both from the resource banks and they regularly access the drop-in diner and community pantry.

For some individuals support is needed beyond homelessness and into new tenancies to help maintain tenancies and manage household budgets. A new tenancy is often the start of another challenging journey.

Wychavon Rough Sleeper Group, Worcestershire VCSE Forum, Evesham PCN Neighbourhood Forum and Wychavon District Health Collaborative.

Caring Hands is a member of the Fareshare network and Neighbourly network which organises the collections from supermarkets, particularly surplus fresh produce.

Caring Hands is a member of the Independent Food Aid Network and regularly attend national zoom meetings. This has been incredibly helpful in understanding the national context of how food banks and other charitable food projects operate. IFAN also keeps all its members up to date with information, any changes in legislation and any grant funding available.

In partnership with IFAN and Act On Energy, we have produced a leaflet called 'Worrying About Money', which has recently been updated and reprinted. This contains information to point individuals and families towards other organisations who can offer help, advice and financial support. IFAN adopts a 'cash first' approach which aims to help those in need to move away from reliance on charitable food aid provision.

In conjunction with Evesham Food Bank Forum, we produce a leaflet with information about the different Community Food Aid Projects in the Vale of Evesham.

Health and Wellbeing Hub

We work in conjunction with many different statutory and charity organisations to provide drop-in and other sessions within the Health and Wellbeing Hub.

Services cover drug and alcohol recovery, harm reduction, rough sleeper support, housing and benefit advice, homelessness prevention, housing and homelessness support, specialist clinics, Hep C testing and Inoculation Clinics. We also hosted Starting Well Partnership Christmas Toy Giveaway. This was a total of 274 sessions providing 1019 hours of support.

We receive some grant funding from Wychavon District Council for the operation of the Health and Wellbeing Hub, which allows us to offer the use of the hub free-of-charge.

The Future

Initiatives and services that we will seek to offer are as follows:

- A job club to assist those seeking work with job searching and job applications.
- Debt advice and budgeting
- An IT suite which will allow service-users access to the internet to help with job searching and job applications, bidding on local authority properties, checking emails, accessing social media, etc. Many vital government services and universal credit applications are only accessible on-line.

There will be the opportunity to develop the services we already provide:

- Developing networking opportunities to be able to refer and signpost individuals for further support.
- Increase the number of volunteering opportunities we have available.
- Helping individuals to develop their skills and knowledge and offer support to be able to change their circumstances.
- Further developing partnership working

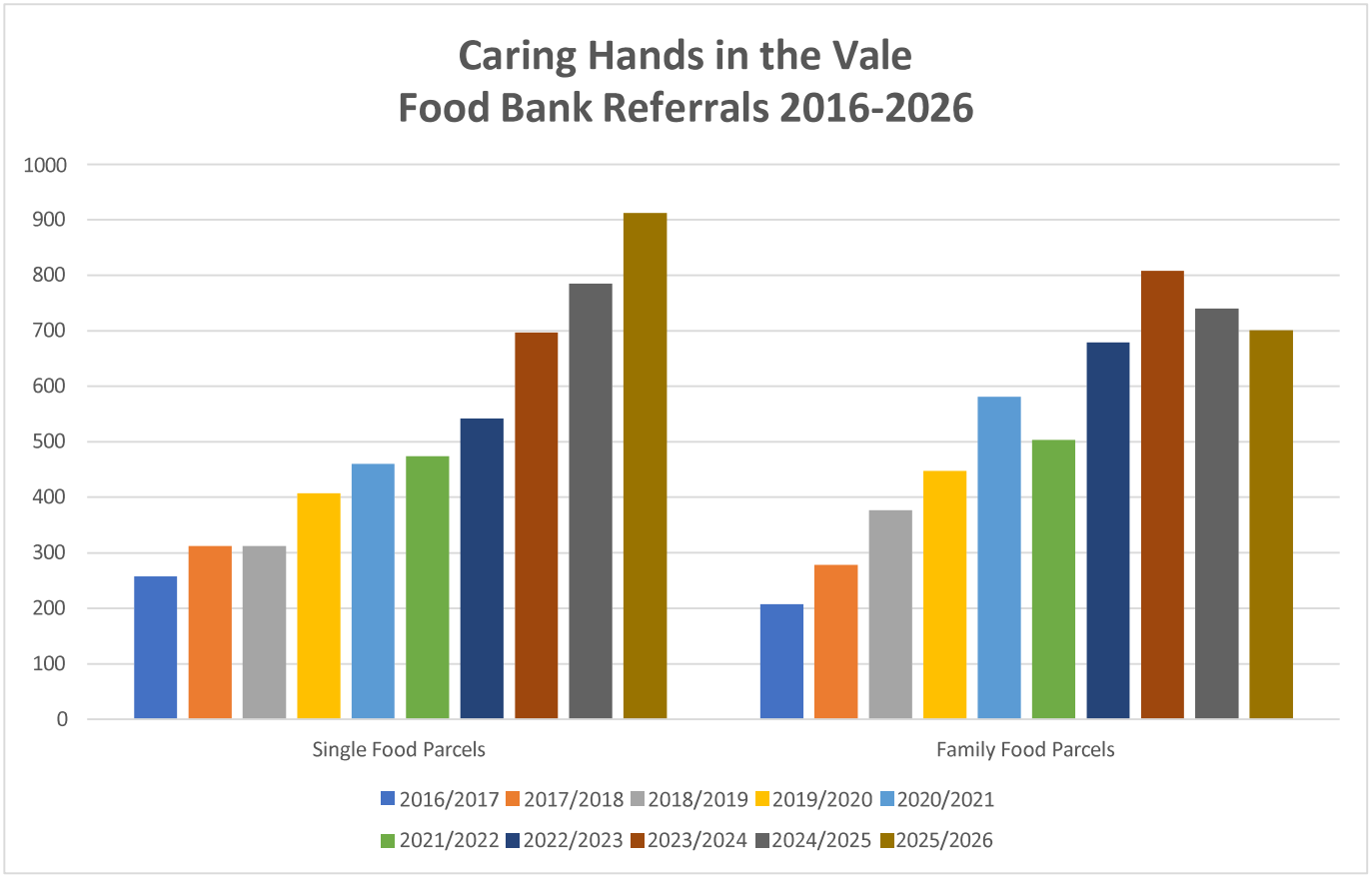
We will also keep everyone up to date via our social media pages and our websites.

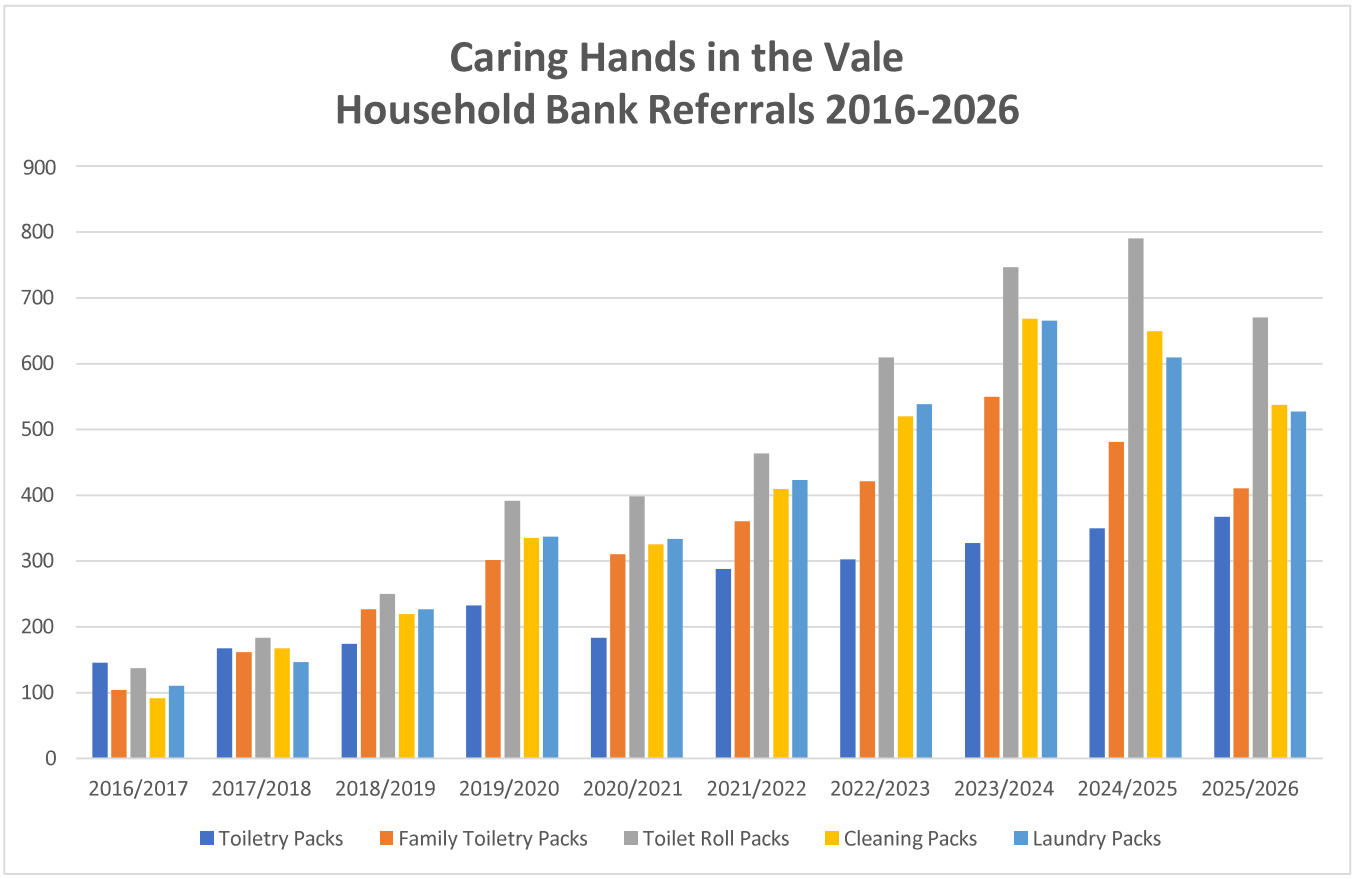
Diane Bennett MBE
Community Outreach Manager
April 2026

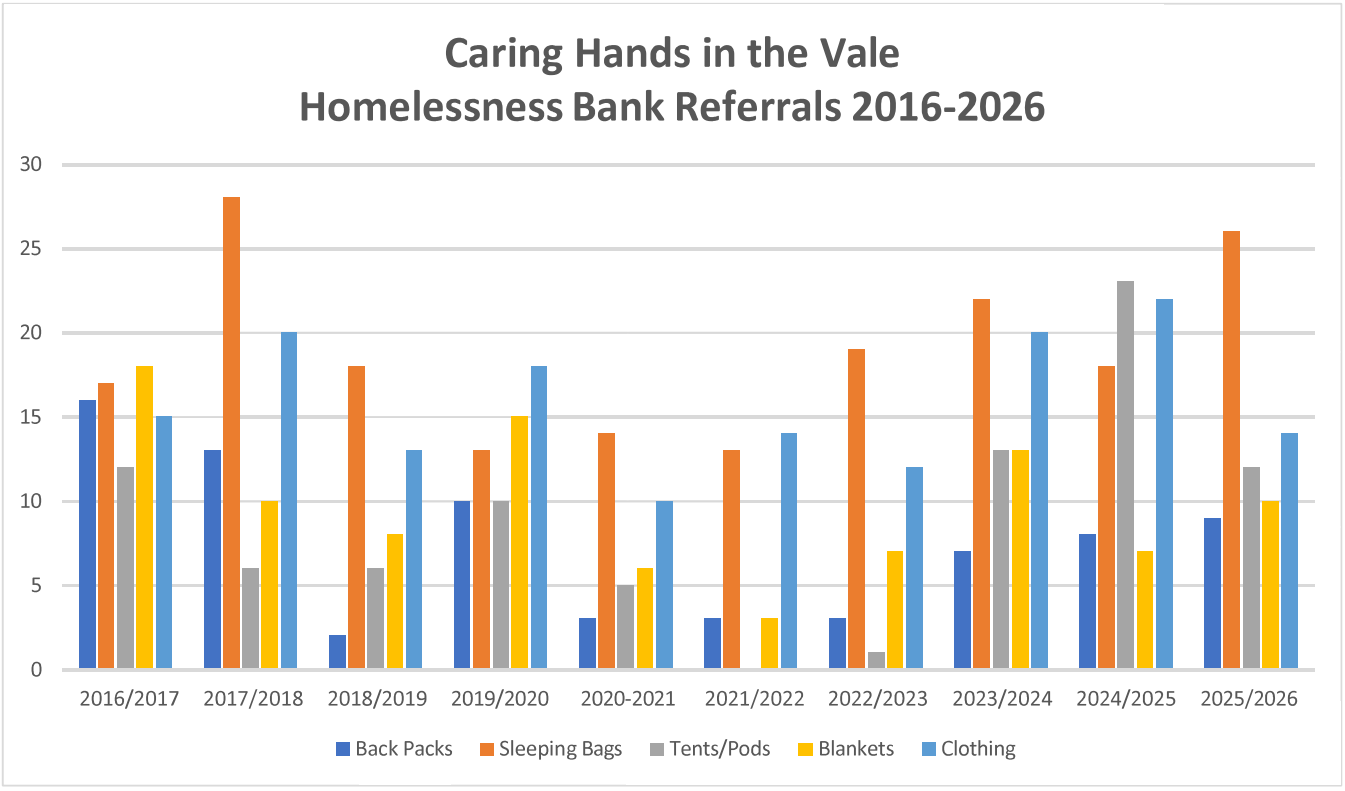
Caring Hands
In the Vale

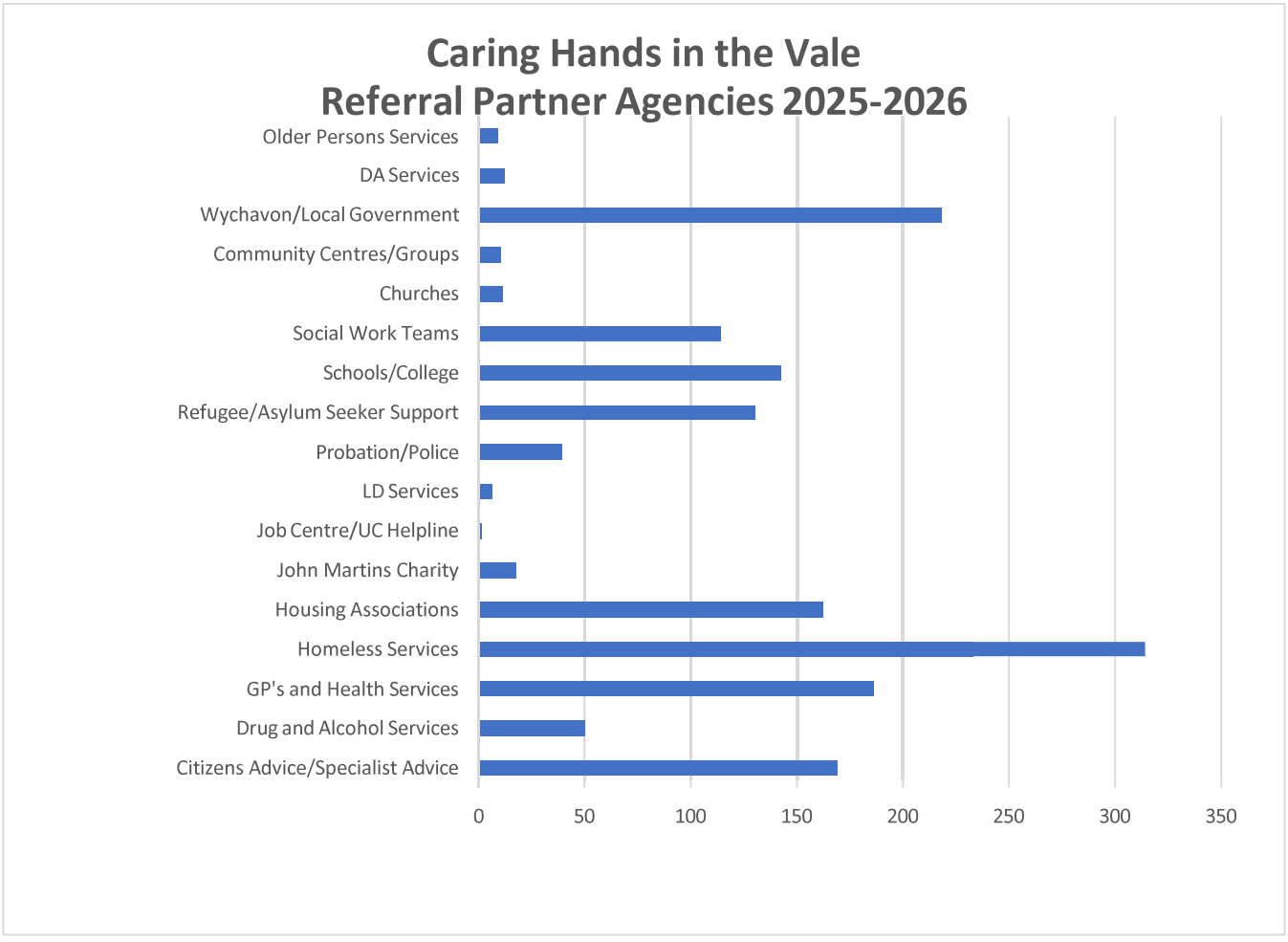
The Lighthouse

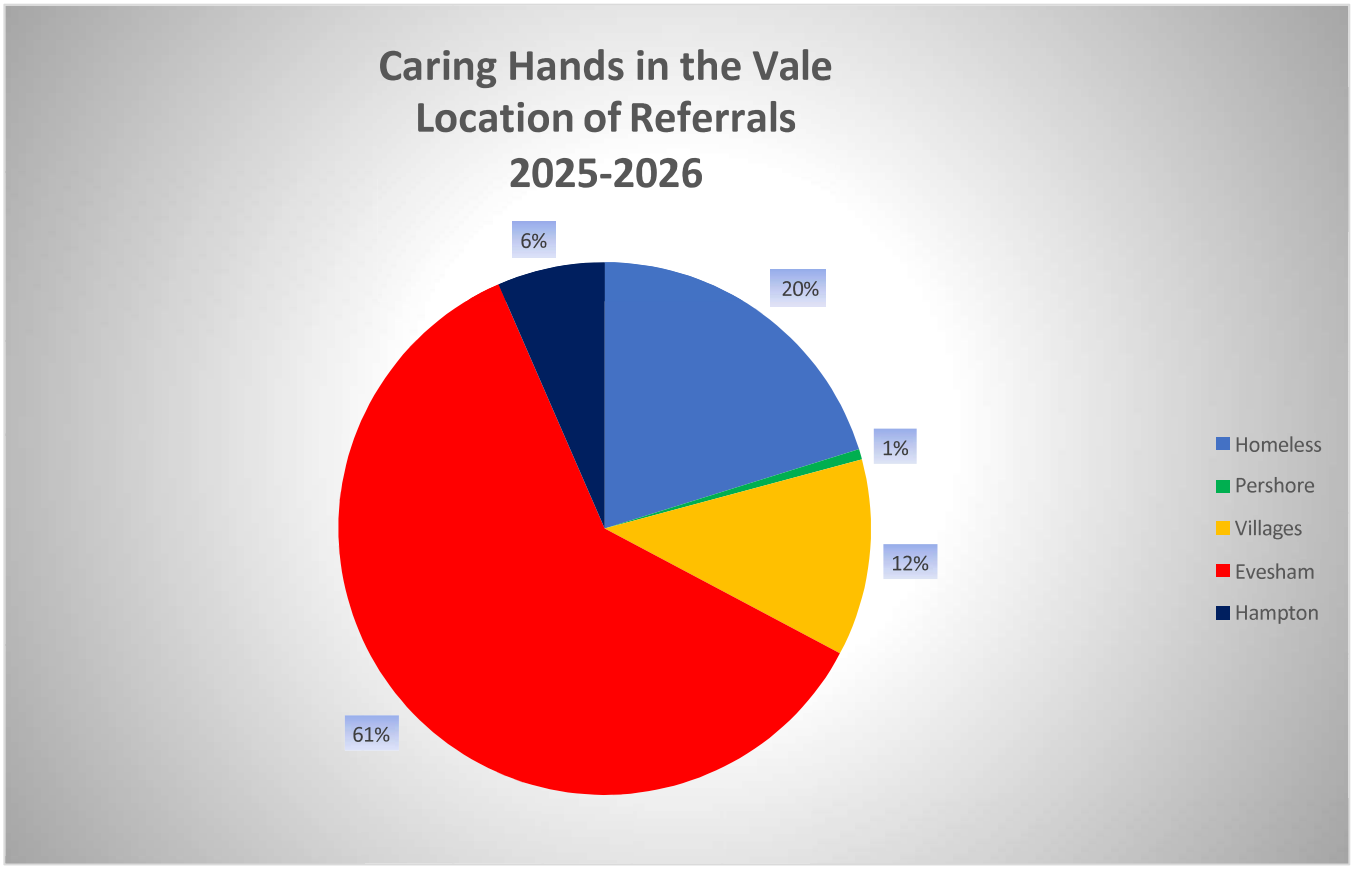


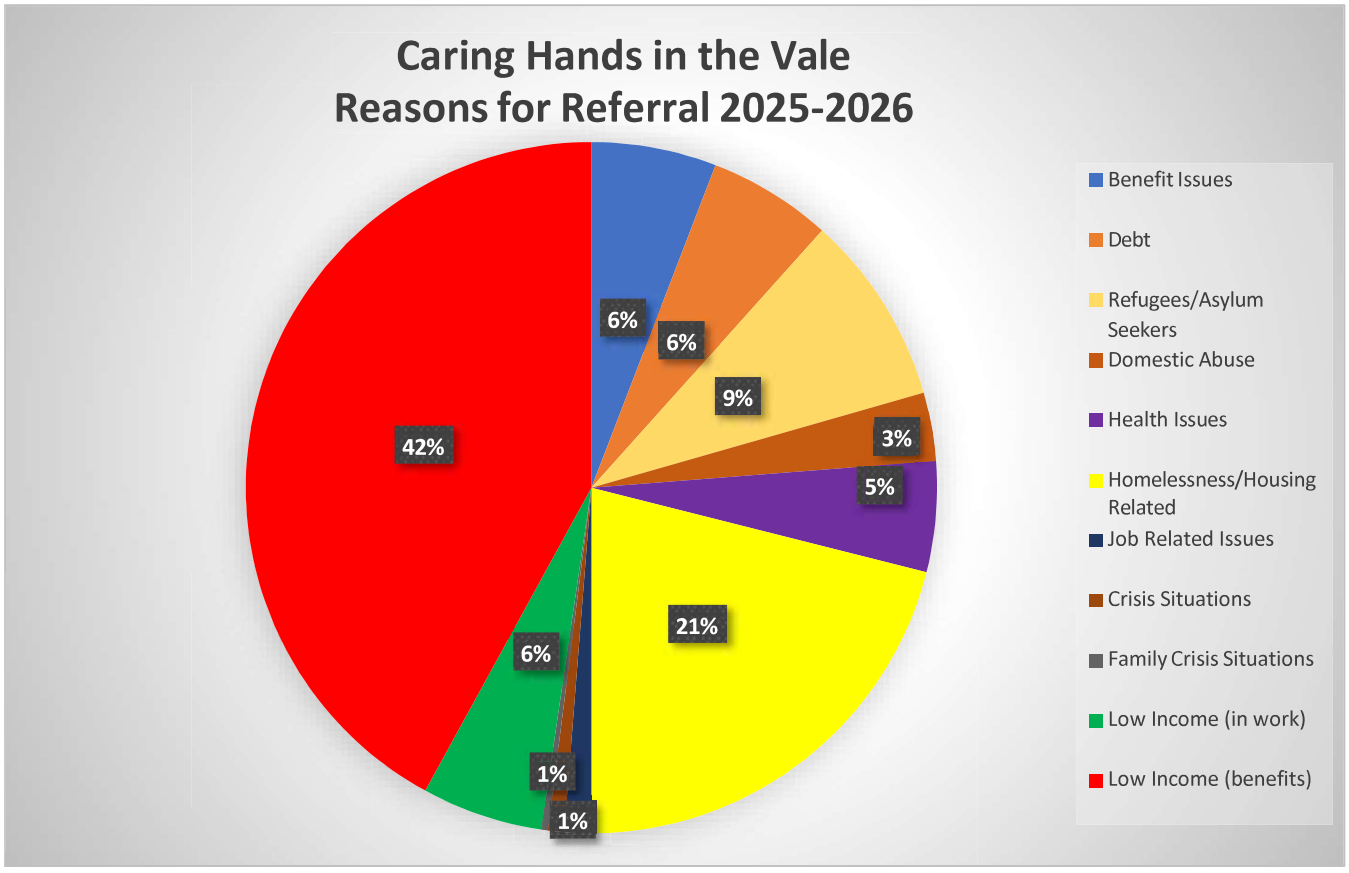

Caring Hands in the Vale
Food Bank Referrals 2016-2026
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Single Food Parcels
Family Food Parcels
2016/2017
2017/2018
2018/2019
2019/2020
2020/2021
2021/2022
2022/2023
2023/2024
2024/2025
2025/2026


Caring Hands in the Vale
Household Bank Referrals 2016-2026
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2016/2017
2017/2018
2018/2019
2019/2020
2020/2021
2021/2022
2022/2023
2023/2024
2024/2025
2025/2026
Toiletry Packs
Family Toiletry Packs
Toilet Roll Packs
Cleaning Packs
Laundry Packs


Caring Hands in the Vale
Homelessness Bank Referrals 2016-2026
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2016/2017
2017/2018
2018/2019
2019/2020
2020-2021
2021/2022
2022/2023
2023/2024
2024/2025
2025/2026
Back Packs
Sleeping Bags
Tents/Pods
Blankets
Clothing


Caring Hands in the Vale
Referral Partner Agencies 2025-2026
Older Persons Services
DA Services
Wychavon/Local Government
Community Centres/Groups
Churches
Social Work Teams
Schools/College
Refugee/Asylum Seeker Support
Probation/Police
LD Services
Job Centre/UC Helpline
John Martins Charity
Housing Associations
Homeless Services
GP's and Health Services
Drug and Alcohol Services
Citizens Advice/Specialist Advice
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350


Caring Hands in the Vale
Location of Referrals
2025-2026
6%
20%
1%
12%
61%
Homeless
Pershore
Villages
Evesham
Hampton


Caring Hands in the Vale
Reasons for Referral 2025-2026
6%
6%
9%
3%
5%
21%
6%
1%
1%
42%
Benefit Issues
Debt
Refugees/Asylum Seekers
Domestic Abuse
Health Issues
Homelessness/Housing Related
Job Related Issues
Crisis Situations
Family Crisis Situations
Low Income (in work)
Low Income (benefits)

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-40

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