

October 2023 Report to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council by Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard (KLCC)

Introduction

In December 2022 KLCC applied for and were awarded a grant of £12,000 (£1,000 per month contribution) by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council. Recognising that the structural changes taking place within the new Westmorland and Furness Council were causing delays in funds being received by all town councils we accommodated the likely delay by carefully managing our finances.

What was the grant requested for?

The grant was requested to support the running costs of Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard – which at the time of application comprised of:

- The Cupboard
- Food Club
- Community Lunches
- Community Cafe
- Soup Lunches and Silver Screening
- Community Hub
- Health & Wellbeing projects
- Seasonal family cinema
- Budget coaching/support with benefit checks/job application.

Since our application we have secured further funding from:

Two lots of funding Westmorland and Furness Council and the Wooden Spoon Charity. Furthermore, we have received donations of food collections from local schools, churches and other collection points.

Who do we support?

The Community Cupboard supports all residents who live in Kirkby Lonsdale and its surrounding areas. The largest majority of beneficiaries reside within Kirkby Lonsdale itself.

Who benefited from the project?

Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard supports the physical and mental wellbeing of our community through a range of initiatives which all work towards benefitting residents within Kirkby Lonsdale and surrounding areas. We work closely with Lunesdale Surgery, St Mary's CE Primary and Lunesdale Learning Trust, as well as other support organisations who refer families and individuals to us for support.

The numbers below give an indication of how many people in our community actually benefitted as a result of the work done by KLCC and how:

- 144 Number of calls to the Community Hub between 01.01.23 and 30.09.23.
- 26 Number of active volunteers. We could not operate without our incredible volunteers who volunteer their time for the Cupboard, Food Club, Community Lunches, Soup Lunches and Silver Screening, Community Hub, and our seasonal family cinema.

- 54 Average number of residents receiving a hot meal every week (52 weeks of the year) through either Lunches at Lunesdale Hall or delivered to their home. This is an increase of 23% on the previous year. From January 2022 to March 2023 Lunches at Lunesdale Hall was a registered by KLCC as a weekly Warm Spot.
- 70 Bags have been distributed from the Community Cupboard between 01.01.23 and 30.09.23.
- 52 households which is 158 individuals benefit from food club.
- 21 Community members have taken part in Mental Health First Aid course.
- 9 people on average attended our weekly Community Café. From January 2022 to March 2023 this was a registered by KLCC as a weekly Warm Spot.
- 11 people on average attended our Soup lunch with 5 people on average staying for the Silver Screening. This ran until the end of April and from January 2022 to March 2023 this was a registered by KLCC as a weekly Warm Spot.
- 421 people attended our family cinema which ran on day each week over the February half term, Easter Holidays, May half term and one day every week of the summer holidays. In the summer holidays KLCC also provided a lunch for those in attendance – this was very well received.
- 30 families received food bags via St Marys School and QES before May half term and the summer holidays. We are currently waiting to find out how many will be required for October half term.
- KLCC sourced funding from Westmorland and Furness Council to support 20 children to receive a mid-morning snack at St Marys CE Primary School.
- 3 households have been helped with Budget coaching/benefit checks, with two of these coming back for support.
- At least 3 businesses a month, from Kirkby Lonsdale and its surrounding area are used to supply goods and services – benefitting our local community and economy. With a further 2 businesses based just outside this area (Melling and Sedbergh).

Expansion of services

Since our application in December 2022, we have expanded the support we offer to meet the needs of the residents of Kirkby Lonsdale to also included:

Knit and Natter – a weekly craft group that meet after Community Lunches. A great place for people of all ages to meet over handheld crafts, a cup of tea and make new friends.

Dementia Café – a real need for this service for identified in Kirkby Lonsdale and after research of how this is offered in Sedbergh and Bentham we have just held our first café. This will be monthly and a place for those with dementia and carers to come for support.

Lunches at family cinema – to ease the burden on local families who may be struggling to cost effectively entertain and feed their children we extended our cinema to include a lunch for both the children and their accompanying adult.

Repair Café – as the need for a community café decreased during the summer months, it made sense to join forces with the Repair Café in their monthly repair café.

To see the real benefits to our community here are some quotes from those attending our Family Cinema sessions:-

“First time - great idea!”

“Fantastic chance to have a trip out and allow children to socialise without the pressure of having to pay a fortune. Also allowed for a hot meal for both children and adults when the 'pinch' has taken hold. Thank you so much to all involved.”

“What a day for all. well done to you all.”

“So great to see adults and children all eating and chatting together away from busy lives. Excellent work by KLCC to bring people together.”

“It’s a fantastic resource in the holiday. It includes everybody whether it’s at the beginning of the month and you can afford to put money in the box or at the end of the month before payday. Kids and adults both fed and sometimes there are leftovers to take home. Which takes the pressure off feeding the children. Thank you for making us feel welcome :)”

“We have absolutely loved these Wednesday! We look forward to them each week and love the sense of community here. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming too.”

“We have loved coming on a Wednesday nice for the kids to see each other outside of school - staff are amazing - Thank you so much!”

“What a wonderful idea and brilliant way to spend time with grandchildren as well. Brilliant and thank you x”

Summary

Overall, KLCC has adapted to the needs of our community and has seen an increase in those benefitting from the services we offer. We have strengthened our relationships with local schools and support organisations.

The funding from KLTC has contributed £1,000 a month to the running costs of all our operations – ultimately, helping to make all of the above happen.

Put together by

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