



DIOCESE
OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE

**CARITAS HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE
GRANT REPORT**

NAME OF GROUP St Vincents Newcastle (SVP)

NAME OF CONTACT Rebecca Stevenson - Read

ADDRESS & POSTCODE St Vincents Centre, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2TQ.

DATE/AMOUNT OF GRANT March 2021 £500

WHAT YOU WANTED THE GRANT FOR
Shelving to extend our food & clothing bank

WHAT YOU DID WITH THE GRANT

We have re-organised our spaces here at St Vincents so that we are better equipped to serve the needs of the community we support. We invested in some new shelving which has allowed us to extend our clothing bank to keep up with the increase in demand. Currently we are supporting over 900 individuals per month with food, clothing, and other essential items. Many clients are from the local community and include refugees and people seeking asylum.

You can see from the image how sturdy and safe this shelving is.





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WHAT IMPACT HAS YOUR PROJECT MADE (*WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?*)

Our Project ensures that vulnerable members of our community have regular access to food, clothing, and other essential items. Food security is essential for vulnerable families and individuals in the local community and by creating a regular and reliable lunch service we are ensuring that people can access a healthy, nutritious meal each week, in addition to emergency food parcels we distribute.

We also provide access to professional, timely and most importantly, free welfare advice here at Vinnies drop-in, to support our vulnerable clients to navigate the welfare, housing, and benefits systems.

We also provide free, bespoke IT & employability courses to help build clients confidence and allow them to get closer to the jobs market. We know that securing good quality paid work is a proven route out of poverty, and we aim to support our clients to do this.

Jack's Story:

After turning his life around and no longer being drug dependent or rough sleeping, Jack started volunteering with us in Newcastle in June 2019. He was experiencing serious mental health issues and was struggling to keep a job. Jack started volunteering with us four times a week in the café. We referred him to the employability course which we ran, in partnership with the organisation Best Practice to develop his academic skills and CV writing. Jack was able to secure employment as a caretaker in our Centre, whilst he continues to apply for work elsewhere.

The project here at St Vincent's Newcastle aims to support vulnerable members of the community to increase their resilience, fortitude and capability to recover from the coronavirus pandemic equipped with practical solutions to improve their standard of living and move their lives forwards.

In addition to the above, we have launched the Mental Health Well-being Programme, where clients engage in sessions and activities and through this participation, improve their social connections, reducing isolation and loneliness. People will be more connected to their communities. Examples of activities include formation of a community choir, women & girls' group, men's pie club, Men's Marvellous Moments (re-connecting with positive memories to help heal current anxieties), mindfulness sessions, and candle making workshops. These will be open to all and we have built in costs for translation/interpretation.