



LCC

*Community
Trust*

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 26

LCC COMMUNITY TRUST TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

INTRODUCTION

This year has continued to present significant challenges for many individuals and families across Lisburn and surrounding areas. Rising living costs, financial pressures, and increasing levels of debt have resulted in continued high demand for our services. Despite reductions in donations and ongoing pressure on resources, LCC Community Trust has continued to provide practical support, financial guidance, and community connection to those most in need. Through the dedication of our volunteers, staff, donors, funders, churches, businesses, and partner organisations, we have continued to deliver meaningful impact across our Foodbank, Social Supermarket, Community Money Advice services, and wider community activities.

OUR MISSION

LCC Community Trust exists to support people experiencing poverty, financial hardship, food insecurity, and social isolation. Through crisis intervention, financial resilience support, and community engagement initiatives, we aim to provide both immediate relief and long-term support that empowers individuals and families to move forward with greater stability and hope.



Key Achievements

Lisburn Foodbank

During 2025/2026, Lisburn Foodbank continued to respond to significant levels of need across the local community.

- Distributed 52,613.21kg of food, equivalent to 125,285 meals
- Supported 3,268 people, including 1,303 children and 1,965 adults
- 62% of households accessing the foodbank were first-time referrals
- Average household usage remained at 1.5 visits per household
- Distributed 400 Christmas food bags, providing approximately 954 meals during the festive season

Food Distribution Breakdown

- 43,818.98kg of non-perishable food distributed
- 8,794.23kg of fresh food distributed through the Social Supermarket

Referral Reasons

The primary reasons for referral remained:

- 68% – Rising cost of essentials
- 16% – Priority and non-priority debts

Household Circumstances

- 13% – Working families
- 80.5% – Not in work
- 6% – Families with no income

Donations and Stock

The Trust experienced a 7.6% decrease in donations during the year. Despite this challenge, stock levels slightly increased by 1.2% due to strategic purchasing and continued community support. Food donations and stock came from a wide range of sources including supermarkets, churches, charities, corporate organisations, educational settings, community groups, and individual donors.



Social Supermarket & Community Money Advice

Kickstart Social Supermarket

Our Social Supermarket continued to provide affordable food and practical support for households experiencing financial hardship, helping families stretch limited incomes while maintaining dignity and choice.

During 2025/2026:

- 187 households / 352 people accessed Social Supermarket support (total includes outreach)
- Fresh food distribution through the Social Supermarket totalled 8,794.23kg, equivalent to 20,956 meals
- 49 Christmas family bags were distributed through the Social Supermarket and CMA services, providing 117 meals
- Supported wider community wellbeing through advice, signposting, and ongoing engagement opportunities

The Social Supermarket continues to play an important preventative role by helping reduce food insecurity while encouraging longer-term financial resilience and community connection.



SSM Outreach

During 2025/2026, the Kickstart Social Supermarket Outreach Programme was delivered across the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council area, extending support into more rural communities through an 8-week structured outreach model.

The programme supported 53 households, representing 123 individuals, providing access to affordable food through a membership-based Social Supermarket model. Households were able to purchase food at significantly reduced costs, helping families save approximately £50 per shop while improving access to essential items within their local community.

Alongside food provision, participants engaged in a range of tailored wraparound support including one-to-one budgeting, meal planning, group budgeting sessions, benefit health checks, healthy eating support, and referrals to longer-term services such as family support, debt management, mental health services, and social inclusion programmes.

The outreach model continues to strengthen partnership working across local communities while ensuring that individuals experiencing financial hardship can access practical support and wider services closer to home.

Community Money Advice (CMA)

Community Money Advice services continued to provide vital financial support, advocacy, and guidance for individuals and families facing debt, financial crisis, and income challenges.

During 2025/2026:

- Supported 62 households directly through CMA services
- Achieved £93,458.44 in financial gains for clients
- Managed £230,469.15 of debt on behalf of individuals and families
- Supported partner agencies in securing £48,778.06 in debt write-offs for clients

Community Money Advice continues to provide essential early intervention and practical support, helping individuals and families improve financial stability, reduce debt pressures, and access wider sources of help and support.

One-to-One Support

A total of 871 appointments were delivered across budgeting, debt, utilities, employment, housing, and general support needs.

This included:

- 174 budgeting appointments
- 71 debt appointments
- 277 utilities appointments
- 47 employment-related appointments
- 20 additional budgeting support sessions



Signposting and Referrals

- Approximately 475 signposting interventions were made to external support organisations
- Worked alongside 78 partner organisations and agencies
- Completed 172 onward referrals to specialist support services across 54 partner agencies

Additional Support

Additional crisis support provided included:

- £13,200 in Bryson Energy support distributed to 66 households
- Fuel Bank support provided to 53 households, totalling £2,225 in gas and electricity assistance
- Christmas support distributed to 23 families through Cash for Kids UK

Programme Outcomes

- 112 positive exits from support services
- 35 recorded dropouts/remains within programmes

Community Activities

Community activities continued to play an important role in reducing isolation, improving wellbeing, and creating opportunities for connection within the local community.

Across the year we delivered:

- 148 community activity sessions
- 1,478 attendances across programmes and activities

This included:

- 35 cookery course sessions supporting 126 clients
- 45 Brew & Bowls sessions engaging 470 participants
- Summer Scheme provision supporting 42 children
- 46 Walking Group sessions involving 148 walkers

These activities provided safe, welcoming environments that encouraged social connection, confidence building, and community participation.

Environmental Impact

Through our partnership with Too Good To Go, we continued to reduce food waste within the local area.

- Prevented 2.04 tonnes of food waste
- Distributed 757 Too Good To Go bags
- Equivalent to 4,857 meals saved from waste

Volunteer Impact

Our volunteers remain central to everything we do.

During 2025/2026:

- 155 volunteers supported the work of the Trust
- Volunteers contributed 5,307 hours of service
- The social value of volunteer hours was estimated at £71,379.15 based on National Living Wage calculations

Volunteers supported every area of the organisation including foodbank operations, deliveries, administration, social supermarket provision, fundraising activities, community programmes, and seasonal events. We remain deeply grateful for their commitment, compassion, and generosity.



Strategic Review

Throughout the year, Trustees continued to focus on strengthening governance, improving operational resilience, and ensuring that services remain responsive to changing community needs.

As demand for support continues to grow, the Trust has continued to prioritise its core focus areas of food poverty and financial wellbeing. This approach ensures that limited resources are directed towards the areas of greatest impact while strengthening partnership working and improving pathways for longer-term support.

The Trustees also recognise the importance of maintaining strong governance structures and robust policies to support transparency, accountability, and good practice across the organisation.

Looking Ahead

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis continues to place pressure on vulnerable households, and demand for support remains high. Rising food costs, financial insecurity, and reduced charitable donations continue to present challenges for the sector.

Looking ahead, Trustees remain committed to:

- Strengthening community partnerships
- Developing sustainable funding opportunities
- Expanding financial resilience support
- Increasing volunteer engagement
- Continuing to provide compassionate, practical support to those most in need

The Trust will continue to adapt and innovate to ensure that individuals and families across our community are supported with dignity, compassion, and hope.

Thanks and Appreciation

We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, staff team, trustees, churches, donors, funders, community partners, schools, businesses, and supporters whose commitment has made this work possible.

Your generosity and partnership continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of people across our community.

Conclusion

LCC Community Trust continues to serve as a vital source of support for individuals and families facing hardship across Lisburn and surrounding areas. Despite increasing pressures and growing demand, the Trust has continued to provide practical help, financial guidance, and meaningful community connection throughout the year.

With the continued support of our partners and community, we remain committed to ensuring that no one has to face crisis alone.

