

What a year it's been so far!

From January to June, we've supported local people and families, helped furnish homes, provided thousands of essential items, welcomed new volunteers and continued working with some brilliant organisations and businesses across our communities.

There's been plenty happening both behind the scenes and out in the community, so here's a look back at what we achieved together during the first half of 2026.

Our Impact: January - June 2026

HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

313

Referrals received

1,456

Household Essentials Provided



150

Households with Children

380+

Children Supported

Top 10 items provided

- 138** Pillows
- 109** Kitchen Packs
- 101** Clothing Rails
- 100** Cleaning Packs
- 89** Single Bedding Packs
- 88** Airers
- 86** Towels
- 80** Double Bedding
- 77** Kettles
- 77** Toasters

CLOTHING SUPPORT

Over 3,600

Clothing Items Provided



Item Breakdown



- 918** tops
- 598** trousers
- 585** socks
- 519** underwear
- 257** jackets/jumpers
- 179** coats
- 228** shoes



RETAIL & FUNDRAISING

It's been a busy six months for our Warrington and Runcorn stores! From everyday sales to some of our biggest events, our teams have kept donations moving, rails full and vital funds coming in to support our work in the community.

Fill a Bag Success!

It's safe to say our Fill a Bag events are a firm favourite! Four events have raised an incredible **£9,923** in the first six months of 2026.

Not only do they raise vital funds, they're also a brilliant way of giving huge amounts of donated stock a new home.

Jumble Sales
= £6,393 raised



4 Fill a Bag Events
= £9,923 raised



Jumble Sales

Our Jumble Sales aren't slowing down either! Between January and June, they raised an amazing **£6,393**.

And they're definitely getting noticed... whenever we share them on social media, we get comments asking us to bring them to towns and cities across the country!

A Huge Team Effort

These events take a huge amount of work behind the scenes. From sorting stock and loading vans to setting up, serving customers and putting everything back together afterwards – thank you to everyone who gets stuck in and makes them happen!

Our Shops

Away from the big events, our shops have been busy too.

Runcorn has continued to perform ahead of the same period last year, while the team has also been making plenty of improvements behind the scenes. More sorting space, dedicated volunteer workstations and a new shop floor layout have all helped get even more clothing out on the rails.

At the Home Store, the team has been busy finding more efficient ways to keep clothing sorted, restocked and out on the shop floor. New clothing fittings have helped create more space on the rails, while the team continues to work through the huge volume of donations coming through the doors.

Clothing sales have continued to be strong, and the team has also been trying out new ideas, including Mystery Bags, to make the most of the stock we receive.

Almost 38,000 customer transactions across our two stores in six months is a huge team effort! 🙌

Almost 38,000
customer transactions!



£8,886 raised January – June

Some of our favourite finds...



£800

PAIR OF ANTIQUE SOLID
STERLING SILVER
CANDLESTICKS



£299

SCANDALLI
ACCORDION



£360

VINTAGE SPIRAL
LIBRARY STEPS



£295

WARHAMMER
QUEST (1995)



£250

VINTAGE
SILVER PLATE
TROPHY



£225

ROBERT THOMPSON
MOUSEMAN OAK
CHEESEBOARD

CHLOÉ MARCIE
CROSSBODY

£195



BEHIND THE SCENES: DEPOT & TRANSPORT

Keeping Things Moving

It's not all happening on the shop floor! Our Depot and Transport teams have had a busy six months too - collecting donations, delivering furniture, moving stock between our stores and generally keeping everything moving.

And it hasn't always gone to plan...

Multiple van breakdowns have certainly tested the team this year. **Kelvin** and **David** even found themselves stranded in High Legh at one point, with David's mum coming to the rescue! 😊 Despite the challenges, the team has adapted and worked around vehicle problems to keep things moving.

More Breathing Room!

One big change in recent months is the addition of our new warehouse space in Runcorn, giving us a much needed middle point for storing furniture and donations between our two stores.

Kelvin has been extra busy (if that's possible!) moving stock into the new space and getting everything organised, helping to ease some of the pressure at both Warrington and Runcorn.

And we're not stopping at storage. We're already looking at other ways we could make use of the space in the future, so watch this space... 👁️

House Clearances

One of the team's biggest achievements has been completing two paid house clearances, generating £1,500 for the charity. When the sale of donated items is taken into account, the total value generated is closer to £3,000.



£3,000

House Clearances

Toy Team to the Rescue 🧸

A special mention goes to **AJ** and his support worker **Ste**, who joined us this year and have already made a big difference helping to sort through our toy donations.

They've joined long-standing volunteers **Alex** and **Lucy** in tackling a much bigger job than it might sound! Every toy needs to be checked to make sure it works, has all the pieces it needs and is ready to find a new home.

A huge thank you to all of our Depot and Transport staff and volunteers for everything you do behind the scenes to keep things moving... even when the vans don't!

Book scanning

Our book scanning volunteers have helped raise an amazing £1,936.10 between January and June by scanning donated books to World of books.



£1,936

Media Scanning

And a special shoutout has to go to **Naomi**, who recently joined the team and has already made such a difference. From scanning and boxing up books to keeping the room organised and running smoothly, she's doing an amazing job and has quickly become a brilliant part of the team.

It's another great example of the work that goes on behind the scenes and the many different ways our volunteers help support the charity.

🤝 WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Earlier this year, we took our Clothing Referral Scheme out into the community with a pop-up clothing bank at Fir Grove Hotel.

In one session, we supported 40 asylum seekers and gave out more than 250 items of clothing, including tops, trousers, dresses, coats and shoes.

A brilliant example of what can happen when we take our support directly out into the community.

💙 OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

There's one thing that runs through pretty much everything you've read so far... our volunteers are right at the heart of it.

Whether you give us a few hours a week, help at our busiest events or have been part of CARE UK Charity for years, thank you for choosing to spend your time with us.

A Well-Deserved Treat for Sally!

During Volunteers' Week, we finally got to let Sally in on a little secret...

After more than 10 years volunteering with CARE UK Charity, Sally was nominated for Room to Reward and gifted a free hotel stay as a thank you for everything she does.

And if you know Sally, you'll know just how much she gets stuck into! From sorting clothing and packing referrals to deliveries, tip runs and helping new volunteers settle in, there isn't much she hasn't helped with over the years.

Congratulations Sally – we hope you enjoy your well-earned night away! ❤️



YOUR IDEAS MATTER TOO!

Some of the best ideas come from the people who are here getting stuck in every week.

We've already made changes based on volunteer suggestions, and we want that to continue. If you spot something we could do differently, have an idea that could make things easier or simply think "why don't we try this?", please tell us!

The suggestion box is there to be used, so keep the ideas coming!

MEET LORRAINE 🙌 RETAIL ASSISTANT

If you've visited our Runcorn store, there's a good chance you've met Lorraine!

She has been part of the CARE UK team for two and a half years, joining us when the Runcorn store first opened.

When she's not at work, she loves long walks, spending time with her family and getting everyone together for picnics. With four children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, there are plenty of them to get together!



What does she love about working at CARE UK?

For Lorraine, it's the people. She loves meeting customers, having a chat and being part of the team as well as knowing that every sale helps support people in our local community.

And it seems the feeling is mutual...

Earlier this year, Lorraine was asked about arranging a furniture delivery, something she hadn't dealt with before. Rather than simply saying it wasn't something Runcorn usually does, she got in touch with Amanda at the Home Store & More, found out what could be arranged and made sure the customer got the help they needed.

"It made me feel really good knowing I'd been able to sort it all out for them and that I'd done a good job."

Lorraine in three words?

🌟 Funny, caring and always smiling

SHARING OUR IMPACT

You've probably spotted just how busy our social media has been this year!

Between January and June, our pages clocked up almost **1.3 million organic views**, helping more people discover everything happening across CARE UK Charity.

Our Facebook pages alone gained **2,857 new followers** in just six months!

Whether you've appeared in a photo, helped us capture what's happening, shared one of our posts or simply given it a like - thank you! It all helps spread the word.

1.3 MILLION
Organic Views



2,857
New Facebook Followers

More Than Just Numbers

For us, social media isn't just about views and followers. It's helping people discover our services, bringing new customers through our doors, attracting volunteers and getting our events in front of people who might never have heard of CARE UK Charity before.

And judging by the number of people asking us to bring our Jumble Sales to their town... the word is definitely getting out! 😊

SUPPORT FROM WBC

£30,000 over 3 years



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

As most of you know, we've had some amazing news! Warrington Borough Council has awarded CARE UK Charity £10,000 a year from the Crisis and Resilience fund for the next three years to support the work of our Homes Team.

That's £30,000 of funding that will help us continue providing furniture and household essentials to local people and families who need them. This gives us much-needed extra funding each month to help purchase some of the higher-value items being requested.

After seeing just how much demand there has been during the first six months of the year, it's fantastic to have this support secured for the years ahead.

MEET OUR TRUSTEE: HELEN SPEED

We sat down with our Trustee Helen to hear how it all began, from a first Facebook post for volunteers to the mobile at Barleycastle Industrial Estate, shops at Cockhedge, Museum Street, Northwich, Runcorn, Riverside, Wales and Chorley, and the story behind why CARE UK Charity exists at all.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I'm Warrington born and bred. I trained as a nurse and health visitor, then worked across the North West, eventually becoming a Director of Nursing, Health Standards and Primary Care. I also spent a short time at the Department of Health, working on managing health services across the North West.

I later set up my own transformational management company and ran it successfully for ten years. I have three daughters and six grandchildren, and I'm very proud of all of them.

How did you first become involved with CARE UK Charity?

I became involved when Nora, our founder, put out her first Facebook request for volunteers. The charity exists because of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old boy whose photograph, after he drowned in September 2015 trying to escape Syria with his family, was seen around the world. His mother and brother also died that day.

Nora, along with myself and others, was so moved by what had happened that she went on to found the charity. So many kind and loving volunteers have supported us since, through many changes and many venues. I already knew Nora, as my daughter Claire was friends with Nora's daughter Sarah. On that first day, Nora had just had a mobile unit donated on Barleycastle Industrial Estate.

I spent an hour trying to find it, and when I eventually did, it was just me, Nora and a lady called Beverley there. We spent the rest of the day mopping out the mobile and putting up tables in what was then a completely empty space.

The charity wasn't actually a charity yet at that point. It started life as Refugee Aid NW and the mobile was soon filled to the rafters with black bin bags full of donations. Just as now, cakes were generously provided for the volunteers, and many sessions were spent sorting donations and working out systems to manage them. My part, with my governance hat on, was making sure there was always a clear way out to the fire escape when donations became overwhelming!

We went on to become a very busy organisation, sending containers to Syria and helping people in need here, always with a big black mountain of welcome donations.

What inspired you to become a trustee?

Nora asked me in our first year as a registered charity, and I told her I was too busy. But with a little persistence, she talked me round.

She often said I was "the grown-up in the room", mainly because I was always focused on making sure we were compliant with legislation, which comes from my NHS background.

I've been Chair for two years as part of our constitution requirements, and I lead on Governance and HR as a trustee.

What's been a highlight of your time with the charity so far?

The work we've been able to do to help people in need, wherever they are. I know we've made a difference to many people over more than a decade now, thanks to so many volunteers and donors.

It's hard to pick one highlight, so I've picked two.

Firstly, our time at the two shops at Cockhedge, when we ran sessions for refugees to get together for English classes and social get-togethers. One time we went out into the Cheshire countryside and refugees and volunteers came together, bringing food for a shared table. We had ice creams and games, and it was a lovely day.

Secondly, I'd pick the time we had just completed filling a very large container and one of the guys realised he'd left his jacket, wallet and watch in the container. After a long and unsuccessful search, he decided with good grace that it had to go with the container!

Tell us something people might be surprised to learn about you.

After a long career in the health services and my own consultancy business, I changed careers and became a local politician. I am now Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Warrington, as well as a Ward and Parish Councillor.



What do you think makes CARE UK Charity special?

It has a good heart as an organisation. The culture we've tried to grow is one of caring for everyone, both the people we help and our own staff and volunteers.

Is there anything you'd like to say to our staff, volunteers and supporters?

Thank you, whether you've been with us for most or all of our journey so far, or you've only recently joined us, thank you for everything you do.

I'm so proud to be part of this team. Nothing is more worthwhile than helping those in need. Please keep doing what you're doing and keep caring for each other and for others.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS LOCALLY 🤝

We know we can make a bigger difference when we work together.

Over the past six months, we've continued to build relationships with local charities, community groups and organisations, finding new ways to share resources, support one another and make sure donations reach the people who need them most.

Here are just some of the new organisations we've been working with recently: **IKEA, Baby Basics Liverpool, WELL Runcorn Hub, Halton Housing Trust, Smalls for All, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, More Than Men and Bright Horizons.**



DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Creamfields Salvage – Monday 31st August

Fill a Bag – Runcorn | Saturday 3rd October

Fill a Bag – Warrington | Saturday 10th October

We'll need plenty of helping hands for both events, not just on the day! In the run-up, we'll need help getting enough stock sorted and ready to go, and afterwards we'll need help getting the shops back in order and the rails restocked after the chaos! 😊

Christmas Celebration Event – Saturday 5th December (Time TBC)

Appleton Village Hall

If you'd like to get involved with any of the above, please let us know!