



CSAN

Annual Review 2016

Working for the Common Good in England and Wales

“Seek the welfare of the city
where I have sent you,
and pray to the Lord on its behalf,
for in its welfare you will find your welfare”.

Jeremiah 29v7



caritas

social action network

Our Vision

We want England and Wales to be places where everyone can flourish in their families and communities, living with peace and human dignity. We strive especially for the voices of the poor and wounded to be heard and acted upon.

With Christian social action at its heart, CSAN is an inclusive, effective and cohesive network of charities grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and Caritas dioceses across England and Wales.

A message from our Chair Bishop Terence Drainey



In his Message to the Exiles quoted above, the Prophet Jeremiah reminds the People of God that they are called to seek the welfare of the place and the people around them.

It is a beautiful description of what we call in Catholic Social Teaching the 'Common Good'. In our own times, we can feel like exiles.

We may feel as if we are surrounded by a culture that regards the Christian message with suspicion and is resentful rather than welcoming toward strangers. Jeremiah reminds us that, wherever we find ourselves, we are called to work and pray for the good of that society.

There is much that is good about our society. For example, the thriving charitable sector demonstrates the altruism of so many. Our Member charities serve as examples of concern for the needs of others. I commend this Annual Review to you and ask for your prayers for our Members and the people they serve.

Our Mission

Caritas Social Action Network shares in the mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

We support and facilitate our network of social action charities and dioceses, working in partnership with them to help poor, vulnerable and marginalised people find their voice and to enable them to improve their lives.

A message from our CEO Dr Phil McCarthy

This has been my first full year as CEO of Caritas Social Action Network. It has been a big change from my previous life as a Bristol GP, but I have relished the new challenges of working in the charitable sector, as part of the Church, in social action and as a “weekday exile” in London.

During 2016 we updated our mission, vision and values and our strategy and I hope this Annual Review reflects this sense of purpose. We have adopted a new logo which reflects our place in the global and European Caritas family. These are important signs of what we are striving to achieve: to put Caritas, practical Christian love for others, at the heart of what it is to be a Catholic, a parish, a community and a charity. We do this by serving our Members and the wider Church and so we benefit the public by contributing to the Common Good of society, and to building the Kingdom of God within our nations.

I hope this Annual Review demonstrates how we make this commitment real and effective.



The Caritas Social Action Network Team November 2016



The Network is served by a small national team, based with our sister Caritas agency CAFOD at Romero House, Southwark, London.

From left to right:

- Clive Chapman: Senior Policy & Projects Officer
- Faith Anderson: Public Affairs Officer
- Katie Milne: Policy, Public Affairs and Communications Assistant
- Isabella George: Office Manager
- Porsha Nunes-Brown: Network & Communication Officer
- Phil McCarthy: Chief Executive Officer

Our Member charities serve those in need throughout England and Wales. Some are formally part of the Church and some are independent, but they all share a foundation in Catholic Social Teaching and a desire to create a just and flourishing society. The following section describes how CSAN served our Members during 2016.

Forums and webinars

Throughout 2016, we organised and facilitated our six special interest forums:

- Communications
- Directors
- Criminal Justice
- Fundraising & Marketing
- Older People's Services
- School Services

The forums have continued to provide a place for Members to share best practice, to collaborate and to further their strategic objectives.

The Directors' forum, in May 2016, received a presentation of research on Catholic Social Thought and Catholic Charities in Britain from Ben Ryan of the think tank Theos.

This research involved four of CSAN's Members. A discussion of the impact of BREXIT on UK charities was led by Lord Maurice Glasman at the September 2016 meeting.

CSAN Forums in numbers: January 2016 - December 2016

Directors:

3 meetings, 61 attendees
(15% increase compared to 2015)

Fundraising & Marketing:

2 meetings, 24 attendees
(20% increase compared to 2015)

Communications:

2 meetings, 26 attendees
(30% increase compared to 2015)

Older People's Services:

3 meetings, 55 attendees
(129% increase compared to 2016
- including attendance of Ageing seminar)

School Services:

3 meetings, 33 attendees
(26% increase compared to 2015)

Criminal Justice:

3 meetings, 35 attendees
(10% decrease compared to 2015)

Serving our Members

Building on the work of the Older People's Services forum, we organised our first Ageing in an Inclusive Society seminar. This was attended by over 40 academics, professionals, volunteers, carers and individuals interested in improving the lives of older people in the UK. The seminar focussed on issues including dementia, social isolation, advance care planning and wellbeing. 100% of delegates rated the seminar as excellent.

At the School Services Forum, Liza Dresner, Director of Resources for Autism, delivered an insightful workshop on a range of topics including communication skills, identification issues, safeguarding and support for parents.

At our Fundraising and Marketing forum there were talks on Philanthropic Psychology by Professor Jen Shang from the Centre for Sustainable Philanthropy, Plymouth University, and on Data in Fundraising by Erin Longhurst from Social Misfits Media.

Under the chairmanship of Bishop Richard Moth, we have facilitated the Criminal Justice forum, which brings together Members who work in this field for discussion and presentations by external experts. At one meeting, Sara Lee from The Irene Taylor Trust described her research on international prison systems and arts. In response to the increasing prevalence of new psychoactive substances in UK prisons, we organised a presentation on this topic.

In 2016 we commissioned Lime Green Consulting to deliver a series of webinars on fundraising strategy and online fundraising. Over 90% of attendees found the content appropriate and valuable and were happy with the mode of delivery. The webinars are a new medium to serve all our Members, especially those not based in London.

Collaboration: Embrace

In 2016 we were awarded a major grant to establish a new, formal collaboration between the national team and four charities in the Network, entitled the Embrace Project.

This was a first for the Network and we believe it was unprecedented in the Church in England and Wales.

The focus for this collaboration is to support volunteers in sixteen parishes in four dioceses and to establish new activities with at least 800 older people who want to have more social connections.

The charities remain independent but they have agreed on a structure for joint decision-making. CSAN is the accountable body for the grant.



Serving our Members

Policy & Public Affairs

The overarching theme of this year's advocacy has been to highlight the human dignity of people who often receive bad press and even violence. We encouraged positive stances towards migrants, refugees, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, as well as continuing to monitor the impact of reforms on those in housing difficulties and in all forms of poverty.

We highlighted the experience of our Member charities through briefing materials, consultation and inquiry submissions and direct representations to Parliamentarians.

We saw success in several areas: the published recommendations made by the Communities & Local Government Committee's report on the Inquiry into Homelessness mirrored our own witness and analysis; a reversal of the Government's decision to increase Immigration Tribunal appeal fees by 500%; and the promise to implement ethnic monitoring of Travellers in the youth criminal justice system.

We strengthened our relationships with Parliamentarians this year. We visited the 'Jungle' camp at Calais with three Parliamentarians in January, and in addition to various meetings with individual Parliamentarians, we were invited to present our Members' witness of specific issues to Damian Green, Work & Pensions Secretary.

CSAN's annual parliamentary reception focused on homelessness and the launch of the Bishops' Conference criminal justice paper 'The Right Road'. The event was once again a wonderful afternoon in the Palace of Westminster celebrating Catholic social action, and well received by the 130 people who attended. The scope and depth of the Network was well represented to Parliamentarians from both Houses. Speeches from Cardinal Nichols and Marcus Jones, the Local Government Minister with responsibility for addressing homelessness, highlighted the Network's contribution to transforming lives and the need for the voluntary sector to continue to work with Government for the Common Good.

We have raised our profile in the public sphere, and were delighted to be mentioned as a positive example of faith-based social action in Dame Louise Casey's review of social integration. We have strengthened our relationship with the Catholic press, positioning ourselves as a well-informed Catholic voice on welfare and housing policy issues.

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Bishops' agency deplores Calais border wall plan

The Bishops' Agency Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) has condemned government plans to build a border wall at Calais. The £1.8 million wall was announced last week by immigration minister Priti Patel. It is expected to stop migrants from landing outside its outer perimeter.

CSAN, which is part of the Bishops' pastoral mission, said it was "deeply concerned" by the announcement.

In a statement, the agency said: "We recognise the right of every citizen to secure their borders but we believe that creating such a barrier at Calais is not only inhumane but also a waste of money. There will be people living with the consequences of the government's decision."

Most migrants at the Calais camp are living on one meal a day

The statement argued that a response to the crisis for the Calais refugee camp needs to focus on "urgent, realistic, humane" solutions, "including, for example, the provision of food, shelter, and medical care."

CSAN has worked with the Bishops' Agency of Calais, Bishops' Caritas, to send medical help to migrants in the "Jungle" camp. It has also collaborated with leading charities, a local mosque, and other agencies that support the camp.

CSAN also noted that the wall "will be a barrier to the provision of medical care, and the wall will be a barrier to the provision of medical care."

1. The Caritas delegation to the 'Jungle' camp, Calais, January
2. Caroline Spelman MP addresses the 'Refugee Walk of Witness', Birmingham, October
3. The CSAN Parliamentary Reception, London, November
4. The Catholic Herald, May
5. The Catholic Herald, September
6. The Tablet, September
7. The Catholic Universe, December



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The poorest 'need more help'

More must be done to protect the poorest in society, the head of the Bishops' agency CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) has said.

Philip McCarthy was responding to a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Destitution in the UK, which found that more than 1.2 million people experienced destitution last year, CSAN charities help families struggling to meet the cost of essential bills. But "demand is outstripping supply", Dr McCarthy said.

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Charities demand action on homelessness

03/09

CATHOLIC charities say the Government must act, following a report showing the numbers of homeless, particularly those sleeping rough, have soared, writes Rose Garrick. The number of rough sleepers in England rose by 30 per cent to 2,569 between 2014 and 2015 - a quarter in London, according to the 18 August report.

The report's authors endorse the upcoming Private Members' Homelessness Reduction Bill, which would impose on councils new duties to reduce levels of homelessness. The Catholic Social Action Network would be backing the "timely" bill, said CSAN chief executive Phil McCarthy.

Asylum fee plans are to be reviewed

The Government has announced that it will review the fees charged for immigration and asylum appeals and will set, for the moment, an agreed with proposals to increase without loss by 100 per cent in order to achieve full cost recovery. Any applicants who have paid the same higher fees will be reimbursed the difference.

"This unexpected announcement is very welcome news indeed," said Catherine Connors, Chief Executive of the Cardinal Hume Centre. "We at Cardinal Hume Centre are greatly relieved that, for the moment at least, any of our clients seeking immigration and asylum appeals will pay £40 instead of the increased fee of £90. "We feared this was acting as a very real barrier for some of the most vulnerable members of society to be able to access justice. We are reassured to learn that everyone who paid the higher fee will have the difference refunded."

Bishop Emeritus Dudley Caron, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Chair of Trustees also expressed his delight at the news.

"We are delighted that the Government has listened to and acted upon the concerns raised by the immigration practitioners at the Cardinal Hume Centre and elsewhere," he said. "We share the Government's belief that the system must be properly funded to protect access to justice, but we strongly believe that the proposed increases would have prevented vulnerable applicants from having their cases fairly heard."

In September the Government published its response to a consultation on the fee increases. Of the 167 responses, 142 respondents disagreed. CSAN and the Cardinal Hume Centre submitted a joint response, highlighting the precarious situation of many applicants and providing evidence that such increases would act as a barrier to justice.

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Serving our Members

Newsletters and Policy Briefings

During the year the readership of our monthly e-newsletter grew by over 13%. These newsletters feature our Members' latest announcements and projects to spread public knowledge and improve understanding of the work of Catholic charities in England and Wales.

In addition to the newsletter, Members receive the monthly CSAN Policy Despatch. This updates them on our parliamentary work and policy developments in areas relevant to the network.

New website www.csan.org.uk

We launched a new website on the Feast of Christ the King, in November 2016, working with lead developer EmmsIT, and the Digital Manager at the Bishops' Conference. The new site is rooted in our Catholic identity, more clearly illustrates the activities of our Member charities, and makes it easier for the public to find out how to become more involved with Catholic social action in England and Wales.

Amplifying the voices of our Members

During the year we improved CSAN's presence on social media channels, amplifying the voices of our Members and raising the profile of their work.



We saw an 21% increase in Twitter followers.



We saw an 43% increase in Facebook followers.

Serving the Church

As well as serving our Member charities, Caritas Social Action Network serves the wider Church in England and Wales. We do this as an agency of the Bishops' Conference, through their Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship and through engagement with dioceses.

Caritas diocesan journey

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his apostolic letter "On the Service of Charity":
"The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable".

Pope Benedict described how he wanted the Church's charitable mission to be organised: *"Wherever necessary, due to the number and variety of initiatives, the diocesan Bishop is to establish in the Church entrusted to his care an Office to direct and coordinate the service of charity in his name. The Bishop is to encourage in every parish of his territory the creation of a local Caritas service or a similar body, which will also promote in the whole community educational activities aimed at fostering a spirit of sharing and authentic charity."*

Caritas Diocesan Journey Meetings in numbers:

January - December 2016

January 2016:

17 attendees and
11 Dioceses represented.

December 2016:

23 attendees and
16 Dioceses represented.

Encouraging parish social action

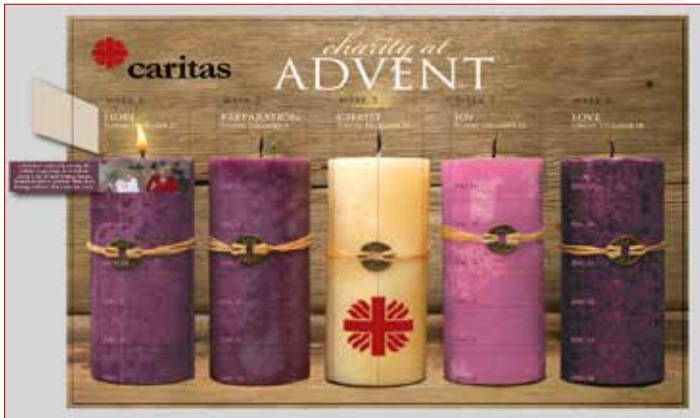
Caritas Social Action Network strives to put social action at the heart of the Church's life through the Caritas diocesan journey and the Caritas agencies that are emerging around the country. We do this in collaboration with the National Justice and Peace Network, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, our sister Caritas agency CAFOD, and our Member charities working in parishes. Good examples of such social action include the parish pilots addressing social isolation and loneliness (see the Embrace project above) and developing pilots of community sponsorship of refugees.

Serving the Church

Raising the profile of social action within the Catholic community

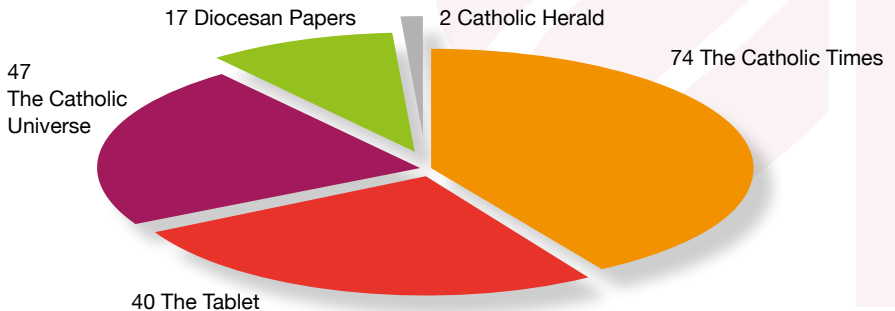
● Advent calendar

In 2016 CSAN produced its first Advent calendar. 7,500 copies were distributed with the Catholic Times, which also published articles relating to the spiritual theme of each week. Each day a window opened to reveal a picture and information relating to one of our Members. We hope the Calendar raised the profile of our work with the Catholic community and provided accompaniment on people's spiritual journeys toward Christmas.



● Media coverage

References to CSAN in publications



Participating in the Christian Responsibility and Citizenship Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference

● Health and Social Care Advisory Group

Our CEO Phil McCarthy participated in the Health and Social Care Advisory Group, which advises the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales on a range of health and social care matters. The work of the Group includes influencing public policy, for example policy on inequalities and access to health and social care

● Domestic Abuse Working Group

Porsha Nunes-Brown is part of the Department of Christian Responsibility & Citizenship's Domestic Abuse Working Group (DAWG). The group aims to raise deeper and broader awareness of appropriate pastoral responses when incidences of domestic abuse occur. Moving forward, we will organise and facilitate DAWG meetings and foster better information sharing and partnership working with Members working in this area.

● National Community Sponsorship Coordination Group

The Catholic Church led the way with the Home Office's Community Sponsorship scheme, in which community groups facilitate the integration of Syrian refugees in the UK. CSAN was asked by the Bishops' Conference to convene a group to coordinate Catholic groups at different stages of the community sponsorship process to share best practice and assist the nationwide roll-out of the scheme in parishes.

Serving the Church

Promoting Catholic Social Thought

● Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice

Caritas Social Action Network was one of the six founding organisations of the Centre, launched in June 2016. Our CEO, Phil McCarthy, was appointed Vice Chair. The Centre brings together academics, charities, religious orders and social movements engaged in social thought and practice. Together, we seek to advance education and research on the structural causes of poverty and injustice using Catholic Social Thought.

● Love in Action

We were pleased to support the launch of 'Love in Action' by Caritas Westminster. This is an engagement programme for parishes, youth groups and schools. We hope it will be widely taken up and links can be found on the 'Social Action: Reading and Guidance' page of our website.

● Catholic Social Teaching study and research:

CSAN Network and Communication Officer, Porsha Nunes-Brown, took part in Caritas Europa's 18-month learning path focused on how to embed Catholic Social Teaching in Caritas organisations. Porsha conducted research on the interpretation, perceived understanding and the extent to which our Members' work is based in Catholic Social Teaching.

We supported Pat Jones in her PhD research project on the relationship between Catholic faith, identity and social action.

Contributing to the mission of the Church in Europe

Caritas Social Action Network is a Member of the global Caritas family, Caritas Internationalis. Our CEO, Phil McCarthy, continued to serve as a Member of the Caritas Europa Executive Board. Caritas Europa works on poverty, social exclusion, inequality, migration and asylum. It works to strengthen the Caritas network throughout Europe.

Phil also represented the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on the Social Affairs Commission of COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community. The Commission monitors and prepares statements, contributions and activities on European Union social policy.

Using our resources well

Governance

As well as being an agency of the Bishops' Conference CSAN is a registered charity and a Limited Company by guarantee without share capital. Information about our status can be found on the websites of the Charity Commission and Companies House.

We have three Bishop Trustees, and during 2016 we appointed four new lay Trustees. During 2016 also, two longstanding Trustees reached the ends of their terms of office: Cathy Corcoran, CEO of the Cardinal Hume Centre, and Andy Haines, who had served as Treasurer. Details of all our Trustees can be found on our website.

The CSAN team are grateful to the Trustees for their contributions to our work and for giving up their time freely from their busy schedules.

Staff training

CSAN provided a range of opportunities to its staff for continuous professional development. Our Networking & Communications officer completed her 18-month Caritas Europa Catholic Social Teaching Learning programme. Our Public Affairs Officer took part in the Caritas Europa Advocacy Learning programme.

CSAN Public Affairs Officer Faith Anderson on a visit with the Caritas Europa Advocacy Learning Path participants outside Berlin Cathedral. Our Office Manager is currently completing her Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development Level 3 Foundation, due to be finished mid-2017.

Premises

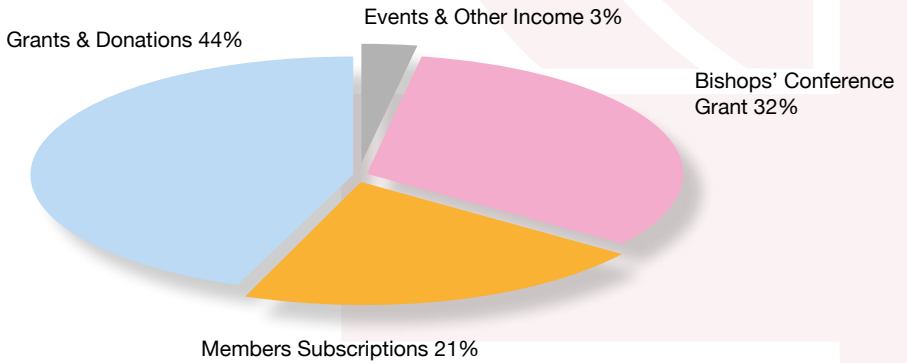
Caritas Social Action Network is based at Romero House, in Central London, with our sister Caritas agency CAFOD. We are grateful to CAFOD sharing their office space with us. The co-location of our Caritas agencies helps us to collaborate, which is increasingly important given the global nature of modern social issues.



Finances

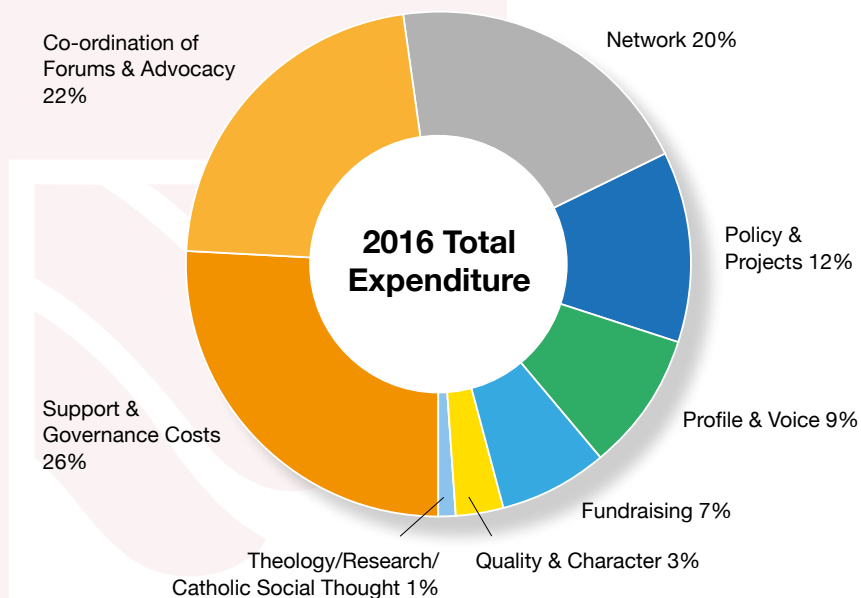
2016 Total Unrestricted Income	279,925
Bishops' Conference Grant	90,000
Grants and Donations	121,989
Members Subscriptions	59,815
Conference and Other	8,121

2016 Total Unrestricted Income



Restricted Income **161,550**

2016 Total Expenditure	263,193
Fundraising	19,060
Co-ordination of Forums & Advocacy	56,497
Network	52,785
Quality & Character	7,584
Theology/Research/Catholic Social Thought	3,702
Profile & Voice	24,314
Policy & Projects	31,827
Support & Governance Costs	67,423



CSAN member organisations

With thanks for the support and opportunity to work with the following CSAN Members throughout 2016:

1. Apostleship of the Sea
2. Brentwood Catholic Children's Society
3. British Province of the Society of Jesus
4. Cardinal Hume Centre
5. Caritas Anchor House
6. Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham
7. Caritas Jersey
8. Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough
9. Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth
10. Caritas Diocese of Salford
11. Caritas Westminster
12. Catholic Agency for Racial Justice (CARJ)
13. Catholic Care Leeds
14. Caritas Shrewsbury
15. Catholic Children's Society, Westminster
16. Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support
17. Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services (CSAS)
18. Depaul UK
19. Diocese of Hallam Caring Services
20. Faith in Families
21. Father Hudson's Care
22. Housing Justice
23. Hurtado Centre

24. Institute of Our Lady of Mercy
25. Irish Chaplaincy
26. Jesuit Refugee Services
27. Marriage Care
28. Medaille Trust
29. Nugent
30. The National Board of Catholic Women
31. The Passage
32. Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)
33. Saint John of God Care Services
34. Seeking Sanctuary
35. Society of the Holy Child Jesus
36. St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry
37. St Cuthbert's Care
38. St Vincent de Paul Society
39. Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
40. Vincentians in Partnership
41. Welcome me as I am
42. Women@thewell



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Image from CSAN member The Passage, reproduced with permission



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