



caritas
social action network

Review of 2018

Caritas at the Heart of the Church

*Caritas Social Action Network is a member of
Caritas Internationalis within the Caritas Europa group*

Foreword by Bishop Terry Drainey, Chair of Caritas Social Action Network

Every five years or so bishops from around the world travel to Rome for their “Ad Limina” meeting with the Pope and Vatican officials. “Ad Limina” means “to the threshold” of the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul. In 2018 it was the turn of the bishops of England & Wales, and our visit coincided with that of leaders from the Caritas Social Action Network. We were able to meet and pray together at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. The next day the bishops met with Pope Francis and I was able to pass on a message to him from the Network assuring him of our support.

During 2018 Pope Francis wrote a message for the second World Day of the Poor. He reflected on words from Psalm 34: “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him” and wrote:

“God’s answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity. God’s answer is also a summons to those who believe in him to do likewise, within the limits of what is humanly possible.”

The charities and national team of Caritas Social Action Network strive to embody our loving God’s response to the cry of the poor, for the renewed lives of each individual, and the increase of justice for communities in England and Wales. Please keep our staff, our member charities and those they serve in your prayers.

Message from Phil McCarthy, CEO Caritas Social Action Network

Pope Francis says, “a Church without charity (caritas) does not exist”. As the life of Jesus shows, caritas, the loving service of others, is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian, and Caritas organisations are at the heart of the Church. Caritas Social Action Network exists to put this into practice in England & Wales.

Rome is the heart of the Catholic Church and that is why fifty leaders from our Network travelled to the Eternal City for our leadership week in September 2018. We were able to experience ourselves as part of the Church’s global mission to the poor and wounded. We had time for “heart to speak to heart”. New friendships and collaborations were formed, and existing ones deepened.

During 2018 Caritas Social Action Network made progress in important ways. We developed our approach to advocacy, to offering a coherent Catholic voice in the public arena on social issues, with our report on housing *Abide in me*. We developed our Network, welcomed new Caritas dioceses and improved collaboration with our independent charities. We also started work on a new approach to education and learning. This work was made possible by the generous financial support of the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation for which I am grateful.

I am grateful to the Trustees of Caritas Social Action Network, our staff team and to the many colleagues who contribute so much to the Network.

04

Introduction

06

Developing the network

12

Advancing education,
training, practice and formation

14

Offering a coherent Catholic
voice in the public arena

16

Operating for the public benefit

Our vision

We want England and Wales to be places where every person 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 will be an inclusive, effective and cohesive network of charities grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and Caritas dioceses in England and Wales.

Our mission

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

Team members

During 2018 there were some changes to the team as members moved on to new challenges. We were delighted that our Office Manager Isabella George's first child arrived safely during the year. We are grateful to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for seconding an intern to our team.

- Phil McCarthy: Chief Executive Officer
- Clive Chapman: Senior Officer for Mission and Advocacy
- Elize Sakamoto: Officer for Education and Learning (part time from July 2018)
- Leonora Butau: Officer for Network Development (moved to USA Sept 2018)
- Armin Yavari: Officer for Network Development (from Nov 2018)
- Isabella George: Office Manager (on maternity leave from April 2018)
- Sandra Lawman: Office Manager (covering Isabella George's maternity leave)
- Anna Geatrell: Administrator (part time from August 2018)
- Lucy Jordan: on work placement with CSAN from the Bishop's Conference's Faith in Politics Internship Scheme (from September 2018)



Bishop Terry Draine launches Abide in me at the 2018 CSAN Parliamentary Reception

Our family of over forty members continues to grow. In 2018 we were pleased to welcome three new members:

- *Caritas Diocese of Brentwood* was launched on the Second World Day of the Poor, 18th November 2018, after a year of consultation and dialogue with groups from across the Diocese. It exists to support and encourage the living out of Catholic Social Teaching within the Diocese. Volunteers give thousands of hours to support those who are ill, poor and marginalised throughout Essex and East London, working with those of all faith and none. Caritas Diocese of Brentwood celebrates that work, which is often both hidden and heroic.
- *Caritas Diocese of Hallam* was launched on May 12th, 2018. Its aim is to provide a network and support to all social action projects underpinned by Catholic ethos. It will involve building relationships, scoping the range of Catholic social action, promoting partnerships between projects, encouraging good practice and an annual celebration of social action by the Bishop.
- *Caritas Diocese of East Anglia* was launched with a new team and a commitment to support the poor across the Diocese through parish projects and helping individuals in crisis.

Caritas diocesan journey

In 2012 Pope Benedict XVI asked diocesan Bishops to establish in the Church entrusted to his care an Office to direct and coordinate the service of charity in his name. CSAN supports this through our Caritas Diocesan Journey programme. In 2018 the establishment of three new Caritas diocesan agencies brought the number of Caritas dioceses to eleven.

During 2018 the number of dioceses with Caritas agencies increased by three, to eleven. Thanks to funding from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation CSAN was able to offer small grants to support the development of Caritas diocesan agencies in six dioceses. By the end of 2018 there were 19 dioceses engaged in our Caritas Diocesan Journey programme. Our aspiration is for Caritas in all 22 dioceses of England & Wales by 2022, ten years after Pope Benedict's call.

Directors' forum

The Directors' forum meets three times a year. Its purpose is to develop, enrich and support the network of charities and other members through networking, input into advocacy and policy, communications and events, faith foundation and strategy. It brings together Directors or CEOs of Network members. During 2018 we covered issues such as the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), gender identity: theological and pastoral issues for those involved in social action and developing Catholic Social Thought on housing & homelessness.

World Day of the Poor

On the second World Day of the Poor, celebrated on Sunday 18th November 2018, Pope Francis asked all of us to rediscover and celebrate in a spirit of joy our capacity for togetherness, for example by sharing a meal after Sunday Mass. Members of the Network celebrated the day in different ways, drawing on resources collated on the CSAN website, which received more than a thousand hits. For example, Caritas Jersey distributed posters, Prayer Cards and Papal messages to all Parishes and organised a practical 'common act of charity' for the Island. In the Caritas Diocese of Salford, an event on the Day brought together volunteers and beneficiaries of social action, with the voice of the poor at its heart. Symbolically, the Caritas Diocese of Brentwood launched on the Day, with an event to inspire and connect those working in social action in the Diocese.

Community Sponsorship of Refugees

Sean Ryan, National Caritas Community Sponsorship Co-ordinator

Two years on from the arrival of the first refugee family to be resettled by a community group in the UK, the Community Sponsorship Scheme continues to have a transformative impact on refugee families and Catholic communities. Of the 160+ projects nationally, around one third are Catholic-led, across 15 Dioceses to date, with more preparing to follow suit.

Parish volunteers typically describe the experience as “the best thing I have ever done in my life” and speak of the profound joy and blessing of befriending families of such immense courage, resilience and determination. The Home Office and Local Authorities, too, have been impressed with the patience, professionalism and dedication of Catholic projects.

With intensive training and support from CSAN charities and Dioceses, Catholic projects are increasingly seen as exemplars of best practice in this important work. This, in turn, has afforded the church and CSAN an increasingly influential voice at the heart of government, and a lead role in the development of permanent, civil-society-led solutions to welcome and integration that harness the power of the gospels for the common good of all.

Our Caritas partners across Europe have been following the scheme's progress here in the UK, with Germany, Ireland and Spain now preparing to launch their own community sponsorship schemes.

The scheme represents a quiet revolution in the way developed countries welcome and support new arrivals whose lives have been torn apart and is the ideal Catholic response to the call of Pope Francis to take in a family. Sharing the love of Christ with those who have lost everything offers hope in the future for us all.

Domestic abuse

Caritas Social Action Network supports the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference working group on domestic abuse which is chaired by Bishop John Sherrington. We funded our member Marriage Care to renew National Board of Catholic Women's domestic abuse resource. This will be launched in 2019.

Embrace Project

The Embrace Project is a formal pilot collaboration between CSAN and three organisations in the network, to test approaches to developing social action with up to 16 parishes initially. Based on the learning from these local activities in 2017-18, the collaborating charities aim to produce guidance in 2019 that complements existing resources available to parishes on addressing isolation and loneliness among older people.

Criminal justice

CSAN's Criminal Justice Forum is chaired by Bishop Richard Moth who has responsibility for prison chaplaincy within the Bishops' Conference. During 2018 members of the forum made successful workshop contributions to the Catholic Prisons Chaplains Conference.

Caritas Internationalis

CSAN and our sister Caritas agency CAFOD are members of the Caritas Internationalis confederation within the Caritas Europa region. During our week in Rome we were pleased to visit the offices of Caritas Internationalis and to meet with the General Secretary Michel Roy and representatives of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.



This year was the second year of the Caritas Internationalis campaign on migration, called '*Share the Journey*', which has at its heart the vision of a united global human family. The campaign promotes opportunities for migrants and settled communities to come together and share stories and experiences. As part of this CAFOD and CSAN displayed hundreds of shoes outside Westminster Cathedral in August ahead of the UN General Assembly in New York at which the compact on the rights of refugees was presented. Phil Kerton, co-director of CSAN member Seeking Sanctuary sourced around 300 of the worn-out shoes used in the installation.

Caritas Europa

In May CSAN representatives travelled to Georgia to participate in the Caritas Europa regional conference and to contribute to the development of a promoting youth in Caritas. A new General Secretary, Maria Nyman, was elected, the first woman to lead Caritas Europa. We were pleased to welcome her to our Parliamentary Reception in November. Our CEO, Phil McCarthy, is a member of the Caritas Europa Executive Board.

COMECE Social Affairs Commission

Kevin Flanagan, Director of the St Anthony's Centre for Church and Industry, writes:

COMECE brings together Bishops' and representatives of the Catholic Church in the European Union. There are several committees of which the Social Affairs Commission is an important one in relation to the issues covered by CSAN members. My main participation on the Commission was to represent views from the UK in relation to their discussions on the 'Future of Work'. I participated in 3 Commission meetings and the Launch Conference for their report on The Future of Work which took place at the end of November 2018.

The primary purpose of their report was to put before the Commission and other partners a vision for decent, sustainable and a participative world of work that serves the common good and reflects the dignity and value of each person. I strongly recommend the Report which is available on the COMECE website: <http://www.comece.eu/>

The autumn meeting of the Commission looked at the challenges facing young people and youth unemployment. The European Pillar of Social Rights has some important elements including work/life balance, parental leave, predictable working conditions and the need for social protection for workers and the self-employed. Youth unemployment had in some countries grown (Spain, Greece, Italy and Croatia) to around 30-40% while the EU has record employment levels of 239M people in work. However, many people in work are increasingly facing difficult situations. So, the question is decent work, not work at any price.

Assuming Brexit is completed at the end of March 2019, the Bishops of England & Wales will have observer status on COMECE. The challenge will be to continue to develop practical and meaningful relationships with our European partners through COMECE and its commissions.



“A Church without charity does not exist.”

Pope Francis





Leadership week participants at the headquarters of Caritas Internationalis

Rome Leadership week

Fifty participants for our first ever Caritas Leadership week travelled to Rome in September (pictured above). The event was highly successful in bringing members of the Network together. It was good to be able to meet and pray with the bishops at the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls. There were four important messages from the week:

- What unites us is that what we are all doing is part of the Church's social mission
- Taking time to develop relationships, dialogue and encounter was transformational
- Leadership formation, and especially of women leaders, is a priority for us
- Collaboration will be key to the success of the Network

We are grateful to CCLA for their generous support and participation in the week. We plan to repeat the week in 2020.

The future of work

On 1st May 2018 we held a successful meeting on the future of work bringing together expertise from trade unions, the Labour Party and the academic world to explore the contribution that Catholic social teaching can make. The event was held in the Mechanics' Institute, where the TUC held its first meeting 150 years ago. Speakers included Dr Mary Bousted, 2017 President of the TUC, Bishop William Kenney, Rob Ffello, former Labour Member of Parliament for Stoke South and former shadow Justice Minister and the writer and broadcaster Clifford Longley.

Communication and Fundraising Forum

In early 2018, the members of the two specialist Forums – Communications Forum and Fundraising and Marketing Forum – decided to merge and create a single Communications and Fundraising Forum, mirroring the fact that the two areas are becoming increasingly overlapped today. The objectives of the Forum became more focused, too. It is now not only a place to strengthen the relationships amongst members through networking and peer support, but to also strategically improve the skills of members through best practices sharing and co-learning opportunities. Critically, it has been agreed that the Forum ought to facilitate collaborative initiatives and foster an improved sense of working together as part of the Church in support of the Caritas mission. CSAN's new emphasis on Caritas Education and Learning has played a key part in refocusing the direction of this long-standing Forum in line with the changing times.



Caritas in Practice

In collaboration with the CST experts at EducareM, we produced the pilot version of the initial formation resource for inducting volunteers and new employees joining CSAN Member Organisations, called 'Caritas in Practice'. It is more than a booklet and has the potential to become a tool even for planning retreats, depending on the Member's needs. Furthermore, we started to receive enthusiastic responses from Members to our open invitation to be part of a Testing Group who will review its general usability and key areas of improvement to help us produce the launch version which will be made available to all CSAN Members in 2019. 'Caritas in Practice' is exciting also because it is part of a holistic Lay Leadership Formation Programme for Social Action that we are designing along with an initiative to help nurture women's leadership. We hope that these will contribute to encouraging life-long progression in formation for individuals and renewing and enhancing multi-level capacity-building for our Member organisations.



Leadership week participants at the soup kitchen of the community of Sant'Egidio



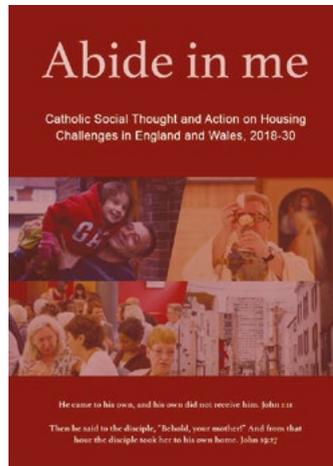
Advocacy review

CSAN concluded an internal review of its advocacy function in May 2018. Trustees endorsed the recommendations to develop the depth and integrity of our advocacy within our resources. This is being achieved in practice with a focus on agenda-setting work that extends the Catholic social tradition in England & Wales, that supports wider political engagement by Catholics, and aims to deliver more robust evidence in a tough environment to influence decision makers. We are particularly grateful for the input we received from member charities the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster), Depaul UK and Father Hudson's Care.

Abide in me

In parallel with our Advocacy Review, we piloted our revised approach, in collaboration with the Centre for Theology and Community, in the complex and highly contested fields of housing, land and planning policy. Second only to managing Brexit, the 'housing crisis' was a top priority for the Government, and one in which a coherent Catholic voice had yet to be developed internationally as well as at national level. The resulting report, *Abide in Me*, published in November 2018, draws on the experiences of people living in different housing situations (including migrants), experts from various disciplines, and practitioners, to offer a Catholic vision for housing in England & Wales. It offers a framework for relevant social action by individuals, local churches, charities and decision makers, for at least a

generation (aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2016-30), plus scope for advocacy and further research. The Bishops of England & Wales commended the report, through a plenary resolution, the launch of the report in Parliament by the Bishop of Middlesbrough, and in an open letter to senior leaders of Catholic organisations in November 2018, encouraging them to walk together more closely in mission.



Catholicism and community organising report

Together with the Diocese of Brentwood, CSAN co-funded a report by the Centre for Theology and Community with input from Professor Anna Rowlands and new field research on the practice of community organising in a Catholic parish context. The report, published in November 2018, extends our knowledge of the opportunities and challenges of engaging parishes in civil

society action. This rich resource will inform the Caritas Journey programme and widens the pool of resources available to Catholic organisations to develop a coherent Catholic voice in the public arena.

Parliamentary Reception

At our eighth annual Reception, we launched our report on housing to an invited audience of MPs, Peers, senior leaders of Catholic organisations and other key stakeholders. Attendance by Parliamentarians was noticeably higher this year, and the event received good press coverage from the Independent Catholic News channel.

Other advocacy work

CSAN's national team has continued to engage with key coalitions and its counterparts through established and much valued ecumenical links. Among these are participation in the Caritas Internationalis 'Share the Journey' campaign with CAFOD, a campaign to remove the two-child cap on welfare benefits, and developments led by the Church Urban Fund. Members of the network with specialist expertise have continued to contribute to Government consultations and inquiries, for example on domestic abuse, modern slavery, social housing funding reforms, and the settled status of EU migrants to the UK (with the Public Affairs Team of the Bishops' Conference).



Maria Nyman, General Secretary elect of Caritas Europa, addresses the 2018 CSAN Parliamentary Reception



Governance

As well as being an agency of the Bishops' Conference Caritas Social Action Network 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.

Our patron is Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster. We are fortunate to have a committed and high calibre Board of Trustees. We are grateful to all of them. Our Chair is Bishop Terry Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough. We have two other bishop trustees: Rt Rev John Arnold, Bishop of Salford and Rt Rev Tom Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool. Our Vice-Chair is Sister Lynda Dearlove RSM MBE. We have seven lay trustees drawn from our members or with relevant expertise and experience. They all contribute to our work and give their time freely from their busy schedules. Details of all our trustees can be found on our website.

Internal training and development

The Board and team took part in a day developing our service value proposition. We completed our team development work. Members of the team undertook training to develop their skills and keep up to date in subjects including Catholic social teaching, book keeping and change management. Anna Geatrell completed her PG certificate in Catholic social teaching.

Finances and funding

We are grateful for our ongoing grant from the Catholic Trust for England and Wales, and support from the Dioceses along with the income from our members. These funds enable us to plan a core programme of work. Over the last three we have supplemented this with income from grants and a small number of individual supporters many of whom have been contributing on a regular basis for many years.

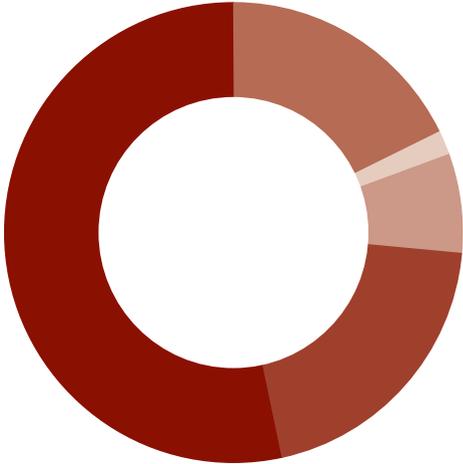
We are grateful to all our funders and donors, but especially recognise two funders that provided financial support for our mission in 2018. CCLA supported the Rome Leadership week and the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation contributed significantly to making our work possible. We look forward to working with them both in the future.

The total income amounted to some £382k in 2018 compared to £370k in 2017. This figure includes grant income from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation of £148k. Total expenditure on charitable activities rose from some £380k in 2017 to £425k in 2018. This was due to planned expenditure on the Embrace project from restricted funds carried forward from 2017.

Full details and our accounts can be found on our Charity Commission website entry.

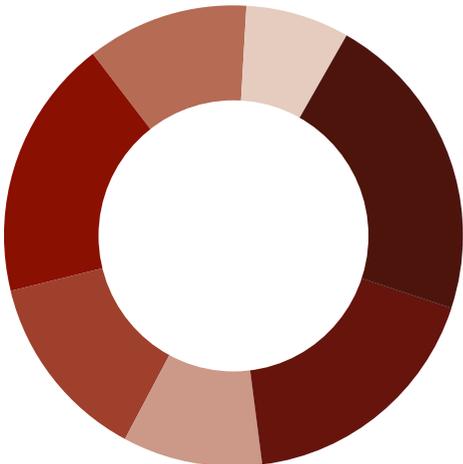
2018 Income

Total: £382,000



Expenditure 2018

Total: £425,000



Premises

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

List of members

- 1 Apostleship of the Sea
- 2 Brentwood Catholic Children's Society
- 3 British Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
- 4 Cardinal Hume Centre
- 5 Caritas Anchor House
- 6 Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham
- 7 Caritas Diocese of Brentwood
- 8 Caritas Diocese of East Anglia
- 9 Caritas Diocese of Hallam
- 10 Caritas Diocese of Leeds
- 11 Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough
- 12 Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth
- 13 Caritas Diocese of Salford
- 14 Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury
- 15 Caritas Jersey
- 16 Caritas Westminster
- 17 Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)
- 18 Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)
- 19 Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)
- 20 Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support (CAPS)
- 21 Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service
- 22 Depaul UK
- 23 Faith in Families
- 24 Father Hudson's Care
- 25 Institute of Our Lady of Mercy
- 26 Irish Chaplaincy
- 27 Jesuit Refugee Service UK
- 28 Marriage Care
- 29 The Medaille Trust
- 30 The National Board of Catholic Women
- 31 NOAH Enterprise (New Opportunities and Horizons)
- 32 Nugent (including Caritas services for the Archdiocese of Liverpool)
- 33 The Passage
- 34 Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact)
- 35 Saint John of God Hospitaller Services
- 36 Seeking Sanctuary
- 37 St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry
- 38 St Joseph's Hospice
- 39 St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP, England & Wales)
- 40 Welcome Me as I Am
- 41 women@thewell



“Collaboration will be key to the success of the Network”



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