



Review of 2019

**“One human family,
one common home”**

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

*“Charity is not an idea or a pious feeling,
but an experiential encounter with
Christ, where we meet Him in the poor”*

Pope Francis

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Operating for the public benefit

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

Many Christian congregations in England & Wales, recognise well what it means to become an 'ageing society'. Their older members generously continue to support even older neighbours to remain connected to their local communities, and on top of that are often the 'glue' enabling younger family members to hold down fragmented jobs in a 24/7 economy. Largely through the work of women, including the radical self-gift of religious sisters, the Catholic Church has long contributed to the provision of formal care in residential settings.

With support from the bishops, Caritas Social Action Network has recently focused on the safety net offering access to social opportunities and good formal care in later life. CSAN has witnessed overall cutbacks in services over the last ten years, including effects of those cuts on Catholic-run provision that is open to everyone, and reduced access to care for a rising proportion of the poor. It can seem that public policy has encouraged people to regard ageing as something to be feared and treated rather than cheerfully embraced, and care as a consumer product rather than an expression of how we develop



as human beings. Despite the best efforts of employers, many care staff find that the employment conditions offered by nearby supermarkets, for example, are preferable to a frontline role in care.

CSAN's work has highlighted the need to celebrate longer life, to re-imagine mutual care that holds our society together locally, and to ensure the welfare safety net realises an adequate standard of living for all citizens, regardless of age. Our work brings together evidence for the major decisions that need to be made to protect the basic human rights of older people and to inform pastoral provision. I encourage you to support CSAN's ongoing mission to animate, co-ordinate and represent these concerns at national levels in England & Wales.

Message from Phil McCarthy, CEO Caritas Social Action Network



The title of our 2019 review comes from the theme of the 21st General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis which I attended in May of this year. The event was a powerful experience and an opportunity to meet representatives from Caritas agencies around the world, often carrying out their work in the face of danger and oppression. In England & Wales we face many challenges: alienation from institutions, inequality, erosion of community and, for many, a lack of hope. Despite these problems we are fortunate to live in a relatively peaceful and open society and we have much to be grateful for.

During 2019 Caritas Social Action Network has achieved much. I hope the report and the further information on our website give you a good insight into our work. I am grateful to our trustees, our staff team and volunteers, our supporters, funders and donors, and to the many colleagues who contribute so much to the network for those affected by poverty, vulnerability and marginalisation.

Our vision

We want England & 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 & 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 2019 we were delighted to welcome our Office Manager Isabella George back from maternity leave and to be joined by Ged Edwards as our Officer for Network Development, on secondment from CAFOD. We were grateful to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales for an internship work placement in our team.

- Phil McCarthy: Chief Executive Officer
- Clive Chapman: Senior Officer for Mission and Advocacy
- Elize Sakamoto: Officer for Education and Learning (part time)
- Ged Edwards: Officer for Network Development (seconded from CAFOD from June 2019)
- Isabella George: Office Manager (returned from maternity leave April 2019)
- Sandra Lawman: Office Manager (covering Isabella George's maternity leave)
- Anna Geatrell: Projects Assistant (full time from February 2019)
- Lucy Jordan: On work placement from the Bishops' Conference's *Faith in Politics* Internship Scheme (to July 2019)
- Mary Gandy: Board Minutes Secretary

We benefitted from the contributions of our volunteers. Andrew Haines who represents CSAN on *Your Catholic Legacy*, Miriam Onyeador and Philip Pinto who have provided support in our office and Alison Williams who has helped with our events. We are grateful to them all.



We want England & Wales to be places where every person can flourish in their families and communities

During 2019 we welcomed the following new members:

- *Caritas Archdiocese of Cardiff* which works as a social action network performing works of charity and education aimed at fostering a spirit of sharing and authentic charity across the Archdiocese.
- *Caritas Diocese of Plymouth* which works with existing Catholic charities, schools and parishes to put the Church's social teaching into action and provide a network in which good practice can be shared and support provided.
- *Catholic Disability Fellowship* which seeks to help people with disabilities to participate fully in the life and worship of the Church.
- *St Elizabeth's Centre* which is the only national charity supporting children and adults of all ages with epilepsy and other complex medical conditions, the severity of which impacts upon their health, social, behavioural, learning and emotional development.
- *Together for the Common Good (T4CG)* which works to strengthen the bonds of social trust, helping people across the churches play their part to rebuild a culture of mutual responsibility that overcomes division, and which puts the human person, community and relationships first.

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. During 2019 the number of dioceses with Caritas agencies increased by two, to thirteen.

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 nine dioceses. By the end of 2019 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 two or 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.

Community Sponsorship of Refugees

Sean Ryan, National Caritas Community Sponsorship Co-ordinator, writes:

To mark World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019, Pope Francis wrote:

"The presence of migrants and refugees is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why it is not just about migrants. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone".

Inspired by the success of private sponsorship in Canada, and by the pioneering example of St Monica's in Salford Diocese, over 60 Catholic parishes have answered the call of Pope Francis to sponsor, welcome and resettle a refugee family. The Community Sponsorship Scheme devolves responsibility

for a family's entire journey, from arrival through to settled independence, to ordinary parish communities, led by a team of trained volunteers. Thanks to their commitment, talents and experience over 300 refugees will receive a warm welcome, a new home, intensive support and an opportunity to rebuild their lives. Many parishioners describe this unique work of mission as quite simply "the best thing I have ever done".

By playing a lead role in this quiet revolution, Caritas and the Catholic Church have not only been afforded a strong voice with local and national government in the UK, we have inspired more countries to adopt similar schemes, including Germany, Ireland, Spain, Holland, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. It is hoped that the church's pioneering role in this uniquely effective resettlement solution will enable us to help shape more humane policies that offer dignity, hope and a future to all migrants and refugees and to change the narrative in our country to welcome.



"The presence of migrants and refugees is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence"

Pope Francis

Modern slavery and human trafficking conference

CSAN held a major conference on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery on 15th October 2019. We were delighted to have the support of CCLA as conference sponsor and host. Seventy-six representatives from the Catholic Church in England & Wales and other organisations shared and reflected on their experience in this field, to prepare new approaches and responses to what Pope Francis has called, “a scourge which continues to cause untold human suffering.” Cardinal Vincent Nichols joined experts from the fields of policy, frontline services, ethical investment and those working to eradicate the phenomenon from supply chains. Discussions concluded with a call for new directions based on the good work of organisations working with the Church. Cardinal Nichols concluded the event by saying: “The conference holds a great deal of promise and we need to work together to create a non-competitive, deeply respectful, shared vision.”



East Anglia launch, November 2019 (Credit to Diocese of East Anglia)

Criminal Justice

CSAN's Criminal Justice Forum is chaired by Bishop Richard Moth who has responsibility for prison chaplaincy within the Bishops' Conference. The Forum's Task Group this year has worked on a model for parishes to offer support to prisoners and their families. They launched this at a successful Criminal Justice Roadshow in Cobham in July aiming to encourage people to become involved in this work. It was attended by 80 people and the group was addressed by a former Category 1 offender. The Task Group will seek to expand this work in 2020 in other parts of England & Wales and use a new training resource for existing and new volunteers.

Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Europa

Phil McCarthy writes:

CSAN and our sister Caritas agency CAFOD are members of the Caritas Internationalis confederation within the Caritas Europa group. In May 2019 Caritas Internationalis held its General Assembly in Rome. This meeting is held every four years and is the highest level of Caritas' governance. Christine Allen, the Director of CAFOD and I attended for England & Wales. The Assembly approved a Strategic Framework for the next four years and elected a new Secretary General, Aloysius John. We heard of the work of the 165 members of the Caritas confederation in over 200 countries and territories. We were fortunate to have an inspiring meeting with Pope Francis, who reminded us that:

“Charity is not an idea or a pious feeling, but an experiential encounter with Christ, where we meet Him in the poor”.

Caritas Europa held its Regional Conference in Rome, alongside the CI General Assembly. A new Secretary General, Maria Nyman, took over as the first woman to lead Caritas Europa. 2019 was the last year of England & Wales' term on the Caritas Europa Board, however the UK's involvement will continue through SCIAF (Caritas Scotland).

COMECE Social Affairs Commission

Phil McCarthy 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 relevant to the issues covered by our members. There were two meetings in 2019. The June meeting included a roundtable debate on the outcomes of the EU elections and their impact on EU social policy. The November meeting concerned the EU's contribution to a just ecological transition towards a sustainable and carbon-neutral Europe.

Once the UK has left the EU the Bishops of England & Wales and their representatives will have observer status on COMECE. The challenge will be to contribute to practical and constructive relationships with our European neighbours through COMECE and its commissions.



Symposium, CNN



In Plain Sight, CNN

Communications and Fundraising Forum going strong

We have been convening this Forum since 2009. It has become a place where members can improve skills and knowledge through expert input and sharing best practices. The Forum facilitates collaboration and strengthens the sense of working together in social action as part of the Church. The bi-annual Forum consistently attracts new people as well as more established participants from the Network.

Supporting Formation in Catholic Social Teaching

2019 saw the pilot version of the CST resource 'Caritas in Practice' tested by seven members. It is intended to be used by member organisations to induct new people joining them. The pilot group welcomed

the resource as a much-needed tool whilst providing feedback to improve it. The process has built closer links with organisations with expertise in CST such as EducareM, St Mary's University in Twickenham, CAFOD, Together for the Common Good, as well as the Network members who kindly volunteered for the pilot.

Caritas Learning days launched

We embarked on a new initiative to bring those involved in Catholic social action from within the Network and beyond together to learn about a topic of common interest from experts in the field. In the spring we held a day on safeguarding in London and, in the summer, we held a day on sustainability in Catholic care homes in Birmingham. Both days were successful, and tickets were sold out. We will build on these experiences in 2020.



The Communications and Fundraising Forum facilitates collaboration and strengthens the sense of working together in social action as part of the Church

Housing, planning and land justice

We collaborated with the Benedict XVI Centre, St Mary's University, Twickenham to develop a new booklet, 'Perspectives on political, social and human aspects of the housing crisis'. Parliamentarians from each of the main parties contributed a personal foreword to the main essay by Professor Philip Booth. We held a launch event in Parliament in January 2019, with a panel including Clifford Longley and Sir Roger Scruton, chair of the Government's Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.

CSAN engaged with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community. In August, CSAN surveyed around 300 senior leaders of Catholic organisations on initial practical responses to the bishops' resolution on housing of November 2018.

Care in an ageing society

On 4th December, two major new resources on care in our ageing society were launched at a symposium in London. For the first time we partnered with a professional videographer to make the event available online, increasing our accessibility for those who cannot come to London. A further development was the inclusion of the views of care home residents, carers and parishioners in their own words.

The first resource, *Care in Time* explored how senior leaders of Catholic organisations could address the increasing concerns of

charities and carers about the prospects for the care of older people in England & Wales. CSAN developed the report in collaboration with Peter Kevern, Professor of Values in Social Care at Staffordshire University, and Dr Kathryn Hodges, an independent consultant and researcher. Professor Kevern has extended Catholic social thought on ageing in our national context and published a related article in *New Blackfriars*. Dr Hodges completed field research with residents in care homes, religious sisters and working age adults in Catholic parishes, in three areas of England. Directors and diocesan representatives in the Caritas network also contributed evidence.

The second resource, *Reaching Out* offers parishes guidance on discerning and organising local group-based social activities that older people feel right for them. This toolkit is a fruit of a three-year collaboration – the *Embrace Project* – between Caritas Salford, Catholic Care Leeds, Father Hudson's Care, Birmingham and the national team in CSAN, with over 20 activities established by Catholic parishes involving over 1,000 people of all ages within and beyond the Catholic community.

Welfare Reform

CSAN convened a meeting of member directors with the Centre for Social Justice to discuss advocacy opportunities around Universal Credit, in May 2019. Further investigation was completed on specific cases in collaboration with Child Poverty Action Group. CSAN participated in the

latest campaign by the End Child Poverty (ECP) coalition to abolish the two-child cap on benefits and has co-ordinated communications with member charities on funded opportunities for empowering young people to engage in Parliament and develop campaigns.

Guidance for parishes and groups

CSAN has redesigned and extended its web-based guidance for individuals, groups and parishes seeking to engage in social action.

World Day of the Poor

For the third World Day of the Poor, celebrated on Sunday 17th November 2019, Pope Francis reminded us that "the poor are not numbers, but people", to be assisted, accompanied, protected, defended and saved. He recalled that this is not possible without the humility of listening, the charisma of the whole, the courage of renunciation. He reminded us that to "follow the way of charity, of humility and of listening means lending an ear to the little ones", because God reveals Himself through them. We produced materials for the Day, and it was marked in a variety of ways across the dioceses.





Caritas Social Action Network contributes to the public benefit in England & Wales through all our activities. Our network development work supports the Caritas dioceses and charities in their work with people in poverty and with other needs. Our education and learning work is a contribution to raising standards in the field. Our advocacy work is an offering in the public arena for the benefit of social policy and decision makers. Our work serves the common good of England & Wales.

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. 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 currently have nine 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. During 2019 we recruited three new lay trustees. Details of all our trustees can be found on our website.

Internal training and development

We are committed to the education and formation of our team. We have benefitted from external input on fundraising, communications and strategy from experts in those fields. Members of the team have undertaken training to develop their skills and keep up to date in subjects including project management, volunteer management and charity finance.

Finances and funding

We are grateful for our ongoing grant from the Catholic Trust for England & 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 few years 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.

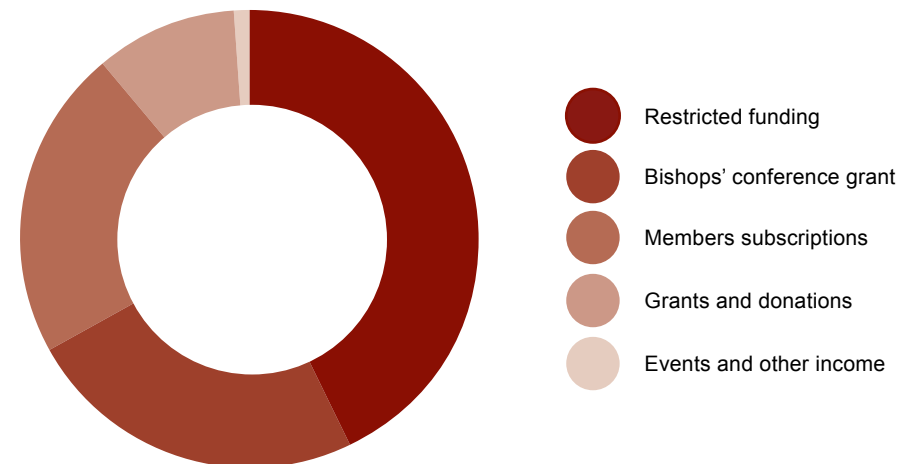
We are grateful to all our funders and donors, but especially recognise the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation contributed significantly to making our work possible. CCLA also gave us generous support. We look forward to working with them both in the future.

The total income amounted to some £381k in 2019 compared with £398k in 2018. This figure includes grant income from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation of £148k. Total expenditure was some £393k in 2019 compared with £426k in 2018.

Full details and our accounts can be found in our Charity Commission report.

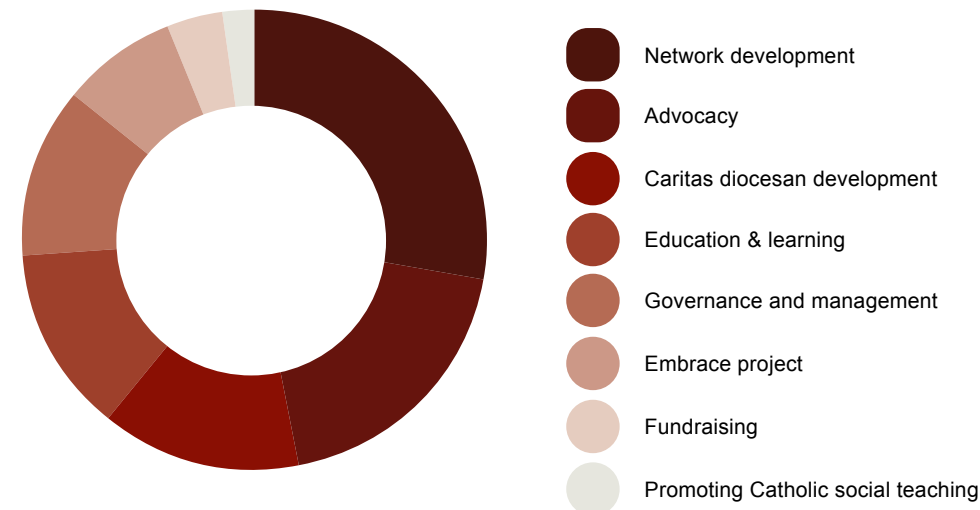
2019 Income

Total: £380,884



Expenditure 2019

Total: £392,987



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 to face complex and interdependent 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 Archdiocese of Cardiff
8. Caritas Diocese of Brentwood
9. Caritas Diocese of Hallam
10. Caritas Diocese of Leeds
11. Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough
12. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth
13. Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth
14. Caritas Diocese of Salford
15. Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury
16. Caritas East Anglia
17. Caritas Jersey
18. Caritas Westminster
19. Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)
20. Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)
21. Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)
22. Catholic Disability Fellowship
23. Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support (CAPS)
24. Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)
25. Depaul UK
26. Faith in Families
27. Father Hudson's Care
28. Institute of Our Lady of Mercy
29. Irish Chaplaincy
30. Jesuit Refugee Service UK
31. Marriage Care
32. The Medaille Trust
33. The National Board of Catholic Women
34. NOAH Enterprise (New Opportunities and Horizons)
35. Nugent (including Caritas services for the Archdiocese of Liverpool)
36. The Passage
37. Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact)
38. Saint John of God Hospitaller Services
39. Seeking Sanctuary
40. St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry
41. St Elizabeth's Centre
42. St Joseph's Hospice
43. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP, England & Wales)
44. Together for the Common Good (T4CG)
45. Welcome Me as I Am
46. women@thewell



We strive especially for the voices of the poor and wounded to be heard and acted upon



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