

Impact Report 2023



The Clothing Bank, Registered Charity No. 1198400 (England and Wales).





Contents

Co-founders	03
Trustees	05
The Clothing Bank	07
Mission	08
Testimonials - Users	12
Testimonials - Volunteers	13
Testimonials - Partners	14
Funding requirements	15
Accounts	16

Co-founders

Sally Parkinson

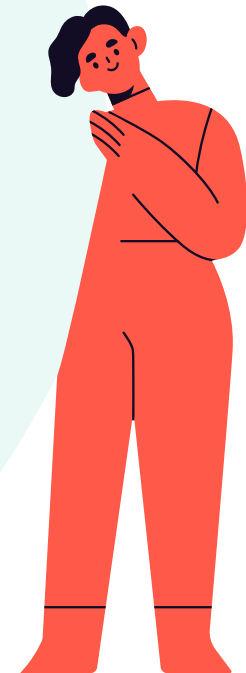
"Having grown up with poverty as a child, I wanted to do something so that no other child would have to go through the same as me.

As a young girl, the only person able to keep me in clothing was my wonderful mum. She went without a coat, shoes and other items so me and my siblings could have them. When my mum died, aged 86, I wanted to start a unique charity.

When I was young, my mum could have used The Clothing Bank. That's why we're here for everyday people who are trying so hard, but are struggling.

All the items that are donated will be loved, worn and donated on again to help others in a similar situation.

Being in poverty doesn't define your life. In fact, it makes you that bit stronger and more determined to work hard for a better future."



Co-founders

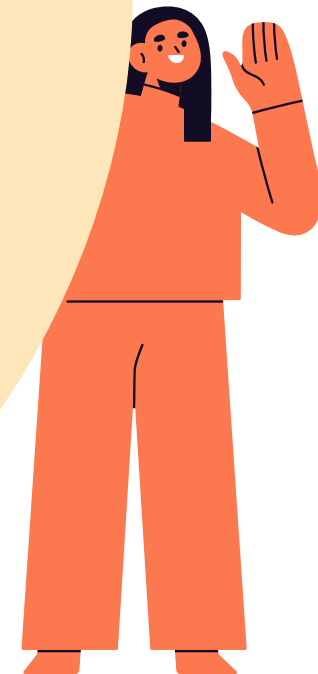
Sharon (Susan) Glew

"When both myself and husband were working, our family experienced poverty. We were £5 over the threshold of being able to get help, but after everyday expenses, we were struggling. Years later, Susan asked me if I wanted to start The Clothing Bank charity. I didn't think twice, but little did I know what was ahead of me.

Running a charity has been a massive challenge. I've learnt so many new skills and pushed myself out of my comfort zone. When you feel passionately about something, it's so worth while. The Clothing Bank shouldn't be needed, but we are. As a community – online, and in person – we have all come together to help others. We have had our challenges along the way.

We have met so many lovely people and heard so many heartbreaking stories. But we have seen the smiles, the progression and the success stories of so many.

Tears and laughter have both flowed whilst we've found ways to run more efficiently and develop the charity as it's grown. For many, clothes have helped to open doorways – from job interviews to attending college or university."



Trustees

The Clothing Bank continues to work extremely hard to relieve poverty pressures by donating clothing in packs to those who urgently need them.

Key Achievements in 2023

Helped

5,049 people

Provided

7,674
clothing packs throughout
Yorkshire and the **UK**.

127 volunteer **drop-off**
points located in villages, towns
and cities across the region.

Achieved

93,700
followers on Facebook.

This year has been especially challenging given the current cost-of-living crisis.

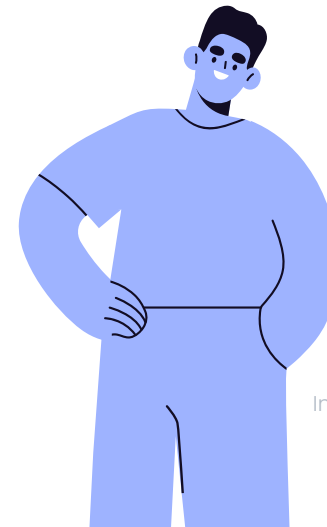
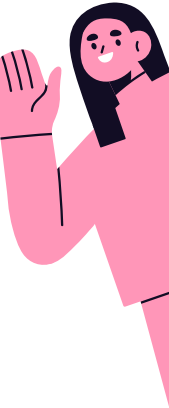
The **economic climate** has resulted in a significant increase to our referrals, whilst also affecting people's ability to give.

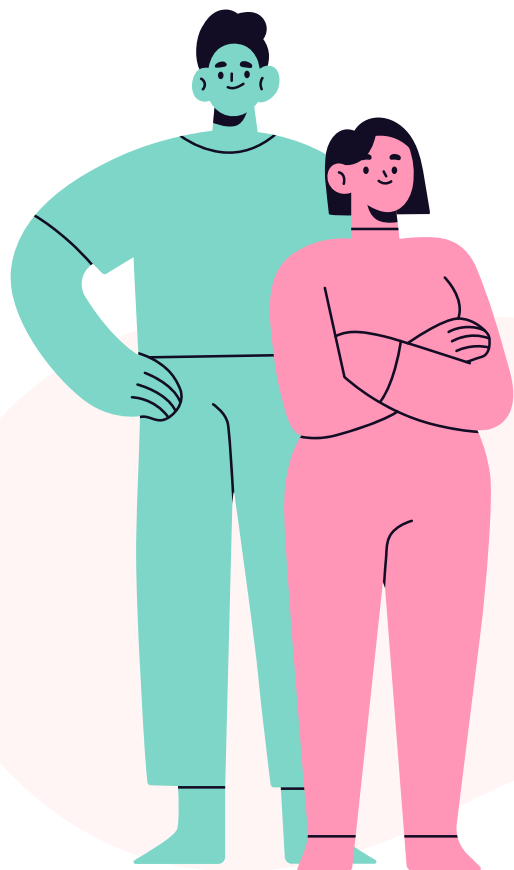
As demand for The Clothing Bank soars, so does the charity's efforts to support as many people as possible. This year, The Clothing Bank submitted planning permission for a new shed to enhance its storage capacity and ability to wash clothes. The intention is to introduce facilities (such as a toilet and tearoom) required to increase the number of volunteers allowed on-site.

Once this has been approved by the council, The Clothing Bank will be able to increase the number of packs sent out, supporting more families and individuals in need of the service.

Looking ahead, The Clothing Bank also aims to diversify its income streams by sourcing vital funding from businesses, grants and trusts, in addition to funds generously raised and donated by individuals and community groups.

The charity's main aim is to fund the cost of postage – a considerable expenditure predicted to rise. The current average postage cost is £7.50 per parcel. Covering this cost would be an immense achievement.





//

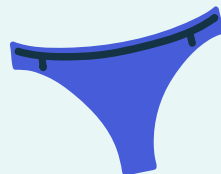
I would like to thank the charity's co-founders, Sharon and Sally, alongside our **incredible community of volunteers**, supporters, funders, donors and partners. Without your hard work, this success would not have been achieved.

Eleanor Banks, Trustee

Trustees

As an established charity with a **growing community**, it is important that we keep on going and keep supporting those who need us most in our community.

Community has, and will always be, at the heart of what we do. The Clothing Bank was founded in January 2020 by two volunteers, Sally and Sharon. Both had lived in poverty themselves, an experience which developed an empathy and understanding to support others. This raw, emotive connection and relatability is what makes the charity a huge success.



Locals readily volunteered to collect clothing for us by acting as a drop-off point. We were also able to welcome volunteers to sort and make packs up, helping us progress from sending 1,000 packs in our first year to 3,000 packs in our second. Soon, different organisations began reaching out to us, asking for help with clothing packs for their service users. By the end of last year, we had supplied 5,000 packs – mostly in Yorkshire, but up and down the country.

We now have an online Facebook community of over 81,000 followers, made up of volunteers, supporters and service users. The online community shares their circumstances and expresses the harsh reality that resonated with many. The Clothing Bank's online presence brought people together to build an understanding and supportive community hub.



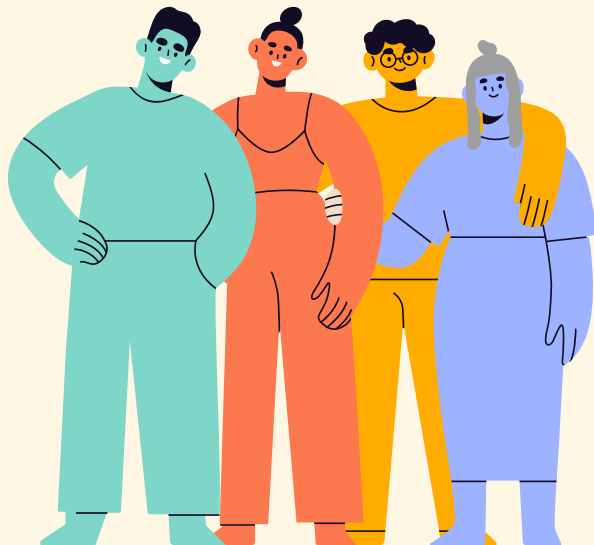
We have helped to clothe...

- Working families struggling financially due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- The elderly transitioning to a care home with only the outfit they were sitting in.
- Hospital patients who only had the clothes they came in.
- Victims of domestic violence.
- Babies and toddlers, growing out of their clothes at a rate their parents can't afford to keep up with.
- Primary-aged children needing school uniform and clothes to wear to prevent them from being bullied due to clothing poverty.
- Teenagers in high-school and college, starting a new journey and transitioning to young-adult life, simply wanting to fit in with their peers.
- University students struggling to make ends meet whilst studying to better their future.
- Ex-offenders on their release from prison, trying to turn a corner and progress in society.

Mission

Our mission is to **recycle more clothing** and provide each referred individual with 7 days of clothing; including shoes, coats, new underwear, pyjamas and a hygiene pack.

Now in our fourth successful year of operation, The Clothing Bank has first-hand knowledge of how vulnerable people are struggling more than ever to clothe themselves or their family after having to pay for everyday living costs. Due to the current climate, reflected by our ever-growing referrals list, we estimate this number to inflate.



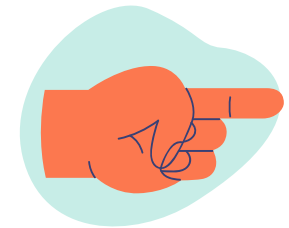
We believe everyone deserves the right to have **good quality clothing** which enables people to:



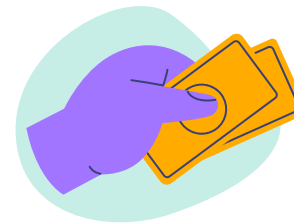
Be accepted



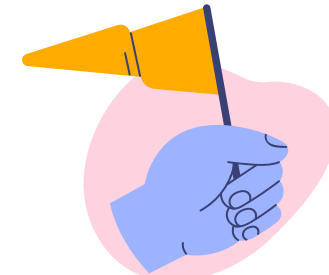
Build confidence



Move forwards
with their lives



Secure paid
employment



Improve their quality of life
and achieve their potential

The support we provide is **life-changing**; from preventing child bullying to providing interview clothes.

Right now, more than ever, people need the security of being able to clothe themselves and their loved ones. In turn, helping them reach their potential at the earliest stage.

We receive referrals directly through our website, social media channels and emergency telephone line. We also partner with other organisations and receive referrals from social workers, teachers, councils, baby banks, food banks and homeless shelters.

These vulnerable people include working adults and parents, people with a disability or terminal illness, victims of domestic violence, those in receipt of benefits, refugees, army veterans, pensioners, children and young people.

The Clothing Bank has a strong, active supporter base throughout **Yorkshire** and beyond, where members of our community have set up 127 volunteer drop-off points located in villages, towns and cities across Yorkshire and the UK.



Each **10kg** bag we send supports one person.

We have supported **5,049** people including adults and children, with an even average between male and female recipients.

6 in 10 packs were sent to children living in poverty.

83% of our clothing packs have been distributed within Yorkshire where our main collection and distribution hub is located.

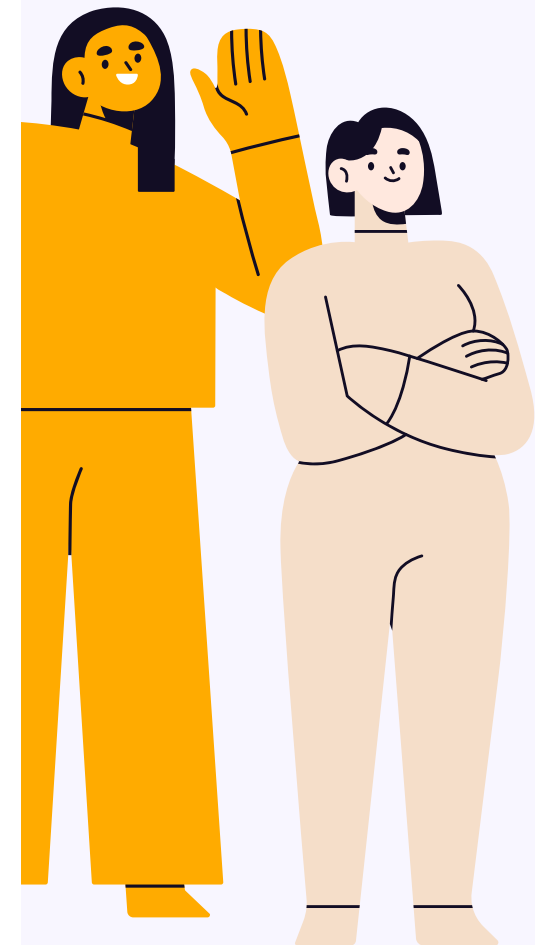
The remainder of our support is spread **nationwide**.

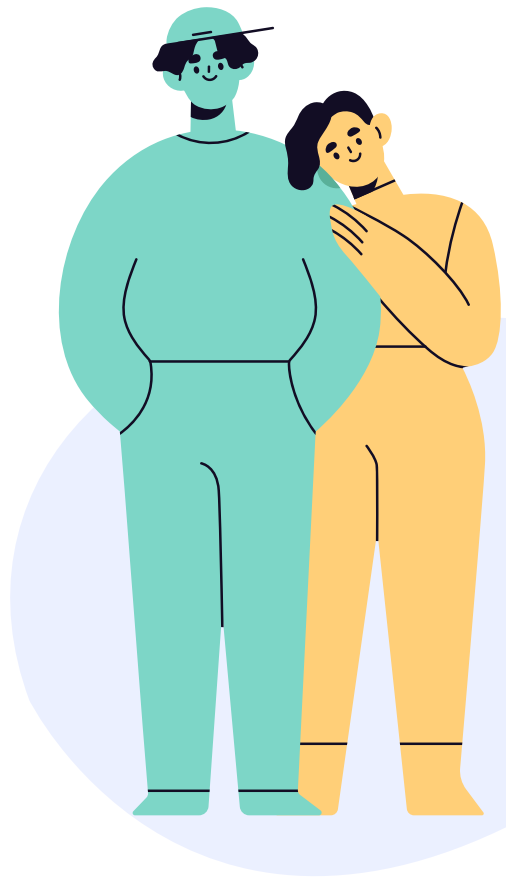
The Clothing Bank provides pre-loved clothing packs, toiletries and essentials to vulnerable children, young people and adults experiencing poverty. We have **strong relationships** with a number of community centred organisations where we fill gaps in their service.

Our charity currently accepts referrals from – and supplies to – the following groups:

- Family Services: Leeds City Council and Wakefield Council
- Social Services: Selby, Wakefield, Leeds, Doncaster and Wales
- Housing: Wakefield District Housing (WDH)
- Homeless: St George's Crypt in Leeds and The Orchard in Bradford
- Prisons: Hull, Leeds and Wakefield
- Food Kitchens: Knottingley Food Bank and Kippax Food Pantry
- Uniform Banks: Featherstone (Sharing is Caring), Wakefield (Small Steps), Bentley, and Airedale
- Hospitals: Scarborough (Clothing), Selby (Toiletries)
- Schools: Selby, Doncaster, Burton Salmon, Knottingley, Brotherton, Leeds. Including the provision of prom dresses and suits
- Collages: Leeds, York, Wakefield
- Care Homes: Highfield Care Home in Castleford

We greatly value the relationships we have with the groups and organisations below, each of which shares our **values** and **community ethos**. We work with the following organisations:





Clothes have helped children to be able to play, make friends and develop social skills with their peers. Clothes have given some **dignity** back to the elderly and veterans we support.

Sally Parkinson, Co-founder

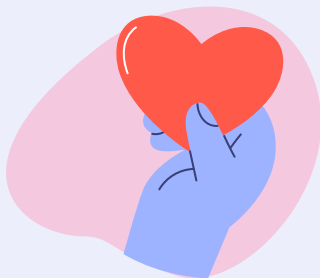
Testimonials

Users

“ Hi, from the bottom of my heart, I want to send a huge thank you to your team. The selection you sent is perfect. We're all so grateful. Also, the infant pyjamas for my daughter is amazing. It had a big letter M on the top (which matches her name) so she is extremely happy!

“ When I asked for help from The Clothing Bank, I never imagined that I would get so many people caring about me as I'm not their son or even in their family. I am so grateful to you all. I can now go to college looking like everyone else. I promise you all that I am going to try hard and give back to others.

I'm so overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and support. You never judged me and made me feel at ease. I'm so sure I will make friends at college.



“ I'm sat here crying. Received so much I honestly can't put into words how truly grateful I am knowing my kids will be warm and have clothing that first. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

“ Thank you so much for our clothes parcel, it is greatly appreciated. My little girl was so happy to receive new items, especially her new pyjamas. Pyjamas, socks and pants are those items that are always needed but get overlooked as an extra expense, so having new ones of all these is a great help for me financially. Thanks again for all your help.

“ My daughter just came home from school to see the coats you kindly gave us. She was thrilled and loves them both. She won't have to borrow my school that looks like a tent on her.

She wanted me to say a MASSIVE thank you to you and also to the people who donated them to the clothing bank. The other wonderful stuff you gave us and is ready to be wrapped up for Christmas for them. We truly are incredibly grateful.

“ Received the parcel today and just want to say a massive thank you. I certainly didn't expect so much, but you have really made a change, and my life, a lot easier. That's a big worry now sorted for me. Thank you so much!

“ Can I just say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I literally cried yesterday seeing my little boy's face light up with such gratitude. He's been asking me for a new coat and I just couldn't afford it.

I've never felt such a bad mum in my entire life and have been at such a low point in my life. I felt utterly ashamed. You made him one extremely happy boy. His face was so overwhelmed, his face literally fell into his hands.

Thank you for the other clothes as well. Honestly, I am beyond grateful as it's made him so happy. He's had a difficult time with ADHD and autism and you made his day. He was delighted.

You didn't have to give him more clothes. This coat would have been enough but you've made such a big difference in a personal way and a massive weight has been lifted. You guys are beautiful people Thank you so much.

Testimonials

Volunteers

“ I volunteer as a drop-off point for my area and work at The Clothing Bank one day a week. The reason for me doing this is that when my oldest daughter was three months old, my husband was made redundant the week before Christmas.

It was a real struggle, but we were very fortunate that we managed to get through those hard times. I feel that we could have done with the help of a charity like The Clothing Bank. I see the time and effort Sally and Sharon put in, and it really is above and beyond, and they do an amazing job.



“ I first saw some posts by The Clothing Bank a few years ago about teenagers and how receiving clothes made such a positive impact on all aspects of their life. It was gut-wrenching to think of something that so many of us take for granted is out of reach for so many families or individuals.

I got in touch with a local volunteer and tried to share the charity's posts on Facebook to tell friends about this awesome community that we're trying to help. People started to bring in their clothes for me and it got to the point where I thought - I should probably become a drop-off point myself.

I've been a volunteer for over a year now, and it still amazes me how many people are happy to donate their clothes. I think I share the same opinion as many others in that The Clothing Bank is such a worthy charity. It is purely there to support those who just need help when they aren't getting it anywhere else. I am proud to be able to help in a small but significant way, and to be part of something that so obviously positively impacts individuals and families alike.

“ After retirement three years ago, I needed something to do with my time. After seeing and reading about the work The Clothing Bank did, I decided to become a drop-off to help them. I thought the work they did was amazing. I was brought up in the 50/60's with childhood poverty as my mum became a single parent with three young children.

After a grand tour of the place, I asked if they needed any volunteers, and the rest is history! I love working there - whether it's unloading, sorting, making packs up - no two days are the same and it gives me a sense of purpose. It's so worthwhile for an amazing charity. I so look forward to my day with Sally, Susan and the other volunteers.

Testimonials

Partners

“ The Clothing Bank offer a crucial service to the residents of the Selby District. I have worked with families in this area for over 17 years and never before have I seen so many children not have the bare essentials of coats, shoes and clothing that fit them and are weather suitable.

More often than not we refer working families whose wages are not stretching to cover ever increasing bills and clothing their children. To be able to contact The Clothing Bank and be given a pack of clothing to give to these families, lifts a massive strain off the adults shoulders and puts a smile back on the children's faces. It's amazing.

Thank you so much to the hard work and dedication of the lovely ladies at The Clothing Bank.

- Becky Railton Home School Support Worker
at Selby Community Primary School



“ The Clothing Bank has been vital to our clients at Palm Cove in order to access material assistance and have their most basic needs met. The referral process is simple and turnaround on collecting clothing packs is always very swift. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do. We are all very grateful for your service. Thank you so much.

- Charley Rodgers
Outreach Advocacy Worker, Palm Cove Society

“ I would just like to say how much your help is appreciated by us at Sharing is Caring, Featherstone Uniform Bank. The new items of uniform and shoes you give us are a welcome addition to help us help families in our community at difficult times.

To see the smile on the children's faces makes the job all worthwhile. It's a shame that, in this day and age, this has to be done. But we can't see children suffer because parents and carers can't afford to purchase uniform for them. In return, it's also nice for us to support you by bringing our clothes donations to you.

- Sharing is Caring Featherstone Uniform Bank

“ The Clothing Bank is a key partner to us at St Peters Church. We run many different community projects to tackle poverty, such as a debt advice centre and a school uniform wardrobe. We work face to face with those in need in our community, and it is sad to see the level of people unable to afford clothing. There is nowhere in Doncaster that we can turn to to get help for these individuals.

The Clothing Bank are a charity that are filling a much-needed gap in the world of helping people. I can contact them and within 48 hours I can almost guarantee the text will come 'items are ready'. They provide our clients with 7 days worth of clothing, new underwear, socks, a coat and a pair of shoes.

I have given these packs to people who have been reduced to tears because they've finally got a bra they are comfy in. In 2023 this charity shouldn't even have to exist, but thank goodness it does because we don't know what we'd do without them. The women who run this charity are lovely, compassionate, funny, caring and do what they do for the love of helping people, nothing else.

- Abigail Clarke St Peters Church

Funding requirements

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported The Clothing Bank in 2023. Whether you volunteered your time or expertise, collected pre-loved clothing, made a donation or gift in kind, set yourself a fundraising challenge, or helped to raise awareness. We are grateful for your shared passion, overwhelming generosity and community spirit.

Below, we have outlined what you have helped to fund, alongside future projects we hope to achieve with your support.

Ongoing Costs

- Staff wages
- Rented storage containers
- Toiletries and essential hygiene products
- Electricity, gas and water – daily running costs
- Postal bags, labels and cost of delivery
- IT equipment including a laptop, printer and software
- Mobile phone contracts used to take referrals
- Two vans – diesel, MOT, service and insurance
- DBS checks for staff and volunteers
- Volunteer refreshments

Future Projects

- Staff wages – an expansion of the team
- Increased storage – planning permission and funding of an outdoor shed with toilet facilities and inbuilt units
- Purchasing of an industrial washing machine, dryer and storage boxes
- Back to school campaign – funding of new clothes, backpacks and stationery
- Transfer database to a secure CRM system to manage referrals and monitor impact



Accounts

The Clothing Bank income and expenditure account for the year ended 5 April 2023

Turnover	£	£	£	£
Sales		11,715		10,359
Donations		93,471		26,385
Grants and subsidies recieved		12,353		10,000
		117,353		46,744

Cost of sales

Purchases	9,162	1,669		
		9,162		1,669
Gross Profit		108,377		45,075

Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	12,500		-	
Subcontractor costs	405		13,282	
Staff welfare	570		66	
Travel and subsistence expenses	402		-	
Rent	610		-	
Vehicle running costs	31,173		21,861	
Computer software, consumables and maintenance	613		292	
Equipment costs	127		5,407	
Insurance	3,702		627	
Printing, postage and stationary	4,036		2,357	
Advertising and marketing costs	-		785	
Telecommunications and data costs	1,659		839	
Website costs	164		-	
Legal fees	806		1,224	
Other office costs	1,054		129	
Sundry expenses	1,320		337	
		59,141		47,206
Depreciation		49,236		(2,131)
Net profit		49,236		(2,131)

Impact Report 2023



The Clothing Bank, Registered Charity No. 1198400 (England and Wales).