



About us

- Place based - rooted in the Colne Valley, West Yorkshire
- Led by local people
- Provide regulated home care services.
- Inclusive - a social movement of active citizens determined to do something practical about the crisis in social care in their community
- Community Benefit Society registered with Financial Conduct Authority
- Committed to values and principles of cooperation

Where we came from - 2017/18

- A crisis in social care
 - Disrespect and poor treatment of care professionals
 - Lack of access to care for people in need
 - Local government and NHS struggling
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- Anything in this picture still ring true today?

A simple but powerful vision

Our vision is to improve outcomes for the three main groups **receiving** and **delivering** domiciliary care within one multi-stakeholder co-op:

- Service user members and their families
- Care staff members
- Members of the wider community
- Scale through replication/adaptation and federation

Wider benefits of community care co-operatives

- Directly addresses fault-lines in the UK care system
- Track record of success - based on Italian co-operative model, but modified to suit UK realities
- Not for profit - surplus goes back into the service and staff members
- Multi-stakeholder governance
- Co-operative approach integrates regulated/assessed care with community based provision
- Organised good neighbourliness - the Colne Valley 'Co-operative Care Store'

Benefits for service users & their families

- Members have a real say in shaping the service
- Flexible care packages that move beyond 'time and task' to include social activities that make life worth living
- Happier more motivated staff will deliver more continuity and higher quality service
- Opportunities for family members to ease the load
- A holistic, person centred, high quality regulated/assessed personal care service

Benefits for staff members

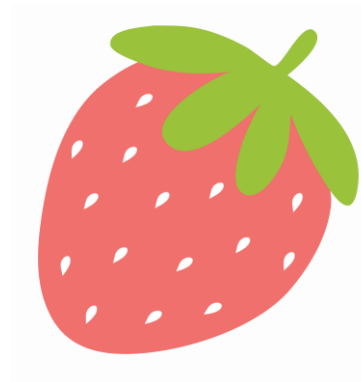
- Staff members treated as respected professionals
- A say in shaping the service - staff representation on the Board
- Real living wage, payment for non-contact time
- Locally based teams with more autonomous working wherever possible and realistic
- Culture of professional development - caring as a career not a job

Community benefits

- Local wealth building
- Fills a gap in provision
- Community cohesion and resilience
- Co-ordinate and enhance the work of existing voluntary community groups
- Practical solutions for Local Authorities and statutory agencies who wish to promote preventative care

Growing the strawberry patch

- Like strawberry plants we are putting out runners that can grow into fruitful sister co-ops
- Power to Change replication project
- Federation and co-operation between sister co-ops to benefit all:
 - Joint procurement of PPE and other materials
 - Shared back office functions and IT resources
 - Shared training and learning
 - Shared marketing





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Welcome to the Sharing Care project website!

You've come to a place which connects and brings together learning, innovation and ideas from social care, co-operation and other areas of the social sector.

This site is a resource centre for all the work which is coming together thanks to funding from [Power to Change](#), which Co-operative Care Colne Valley received.

The aim of our project is to develop, gather and share learning that we (as well as others) have gained and experienced on the journey to setting up a care co-operative and support others who are considering how they could make the care in their communities better.

Looking around, you will find:

- [what we have been up to](#) during the first half of 2021 - you can [sign up to stay in touch](#) about updates as this develops
- our [Toolkit for Sharing the Care](#) - a live, ever-growing resource
- [a blog space](#) - which hosts our own learning and experiences from setting up a care co-op as well as contributions from other co-operators
- a resource space - which will include anything from useful links to resources from the webinars

Search

Get involved

We're keen to involve more people with wider experience of co-operative and community-led care, so that this resource can continuously improve.

The first step is to [apply for a user account](#). Once approved, you'll be able to post comments, and write your own content on the site.

Challenges we've faced

- Covid
- Energy price hikes/inflation/cost of living crisis
- Recruitment challenges
- Internal people issues
- Loss of high-need clients
- Employer's NI changes

Some key learning points

- It will probably take longer than you think
- It will probably take more money than you think
- This is a complex business to operate

Where are we now?

- Operating sustainably - still fragile
- Need to grow further to build reserves and resilience
- Huge amount of learning and mistakes made
- Beginning to get some things right
- Convinced of the need to cooperate to develop the sector.

Next steps

- Use our cooperative values and principles to drive the next phase
 - Continue to collaborate with other initiatives to share our hard-won expertise
 - A cooperative care development network?
 - Shared services - economies of scale?
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