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## **NEW SHELVES STACKED AT NORTH TYNESIDE FOOD REDISTRIBUTION SCHEME THANKS TO NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY BACKING**

A North Tyneside food redistribution project is improving its recipe for success with the help of a four-figure grant from Newcastle Building Society.

St Paul's Community Partnership in Willington Quay runs a weekly FairShare scheme, where food donated by local retailers and collected from a range of other local sources is made available for people in need across the community to collect free of charge from its George Street centre.

The partnership has been increasing the range of products available via the FairShare scheme, with toys, toiletries and baby clothes recently being added to the list.

With limited storage space available, the charity was struggling to organise so many generous donations and risked losing track of all available items.

But now, thanks to a £1,000 Newcastle Building Society grant, St Paul's has been able to buy a series of sturdy metal storage units which have allowed the room to be properly organised and made it easier for food products to be made available in date order, so that nothing goes out of date without being used.

The funding is being provided through the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation, which offers grants to charities and community groups located in or around the communities served by the Society's branch network.

Founded in 2009, St Paul's Community Partnership was set up to build on the work done by the clergy and parishioners at St Paul's Church and is responsible for a diverse range of different community improvement projects.

It runs a care and craft group for older people, a weekly lunch club and a choir, while the members of its Happy Chappies men's group regularly cook meals that are distributed via the Fair Share service.

The St Paul's Centre also hosts the local Guides and Brownies packs, kids' and youth clubs and a digital drop-in group where people can get help and advice to access the internet, improve their digital skills, update CVs, take online courses and undertake job-search. A veterans' group is also set to start in the near future.

Rev Sue McCormack of St Paul's Community Partnership says: "The St Paul's Centre is the only community building in Willington Quay and we try to make as much use of it as we can to the benefit of local residents.

"We originally started our FairShare project before the pandemic, and as it was clear that local demand for it was both significant and growing, we brought it back as soon as we safely could.

"Our ethos is 'take what you need, give what you can' - anyone in the local community can come along to pick up whatever they need to keep them going, and if we see a need arising for specific items, we try to do what we can to meet it.

"We get a huge amount of support from right across the community, from our two local Tesco stores and the Tin On The Wall scheme through to members of our church community, the local Labour Party group and even one kind person who regularly pays for an Asda delivery to be made to the Centre.

"The rising demand we're experiencing has been matched by the generosity of our supporters, but we've consequently seen our store room getting fuller and fuller, which has made it harder to manage what we have on offer and to arrange things as efficiently as we'd like.

"The storage units have made a terrific difference to the way in which we can manage our FairShare stores and there's no way we could have afforded to buy them on our own, so we're hugely grateful for the support that Newcastle Building Society has given us."

Helen Palmer from Newcastle Building Society's Bedford Street branch in North Shields adds: "The breadth of the work that the Community Partnership undertakes across our area is hugely impressive and the positive impact it has on the lives of local people is immeasurable.

"Tackling food insecurity in our communities has been one of the key themes of our charitable work over the last two years and we're very pleased to be able to support St Paul's work in this area."

Since its launch in 2016, Newcastle Building Society's Community Fund has also contributed over £2.1m in grants and partnerships to a wide variety of charities and projects across the region, including the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Prince's Trust.

The grants are so far estimated to have had a positive impact on more than 151,000 people.

The Newcastle Building Society Community Fund is run in association with the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.

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### **About Newcastle Building Society**

Newcastle Building Society\* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 30 branches and assets of more than £4.9bn. We've been here for our members for over 150 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and were voted Number 2, Best Places to Work in the North East in 2019.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and are proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our region.

Our Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited division\*\*.

We're dedicated to helping our North East communities make positive changes; since 2016 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £2.1m

[www.newcastle.co.uk](http://www.newcastle.co.uk)

\*Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ. Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768. Call 0845 734 4345 or visit us online at [www.newcastle.co.uk](http://www.newcastle.co.uk)

\*\*Newcastle Building Society introduces to Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited for investments, pensions, inheritance tax planning, financial advice and life cover. Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited is an appointed representative of Openwork Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **About St Oswald's Hospice**

St Oswald's Hospice is a charitable hospice rooted in the North East. The hospice provides outstanding, specialist and expert care to adults and children with life-limiting conditions, and for their families too.

St Oswald's is a place where people matter. A place that focuses both on living and dying well. It is a home-from-home, filled with honesty, camaraderie and hope that offers quality time for everyone.

Visit [www.stoswaldsuk.org](http://www.stoswaldsuk.org) for more information or [bit.ly/2QX5JYF](https://bit.ly/2QX5JYF) to watch St Oswald's 'Our Story' video.