



ST VINCENT'S CENTRE, BRADFORD



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

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Our Mission

Our mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Vision

Our vision, inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is to give hope and restore the dignity of individuals and families, empowering them to live more fulfilling lives in a fairer world.

Our Values

Christ-centred – We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.

Compassionate – We aim to show compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.

Respectful – We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.

Generous – We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.

Responsive – We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.

Accountable – We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, while acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.

Confidential – We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

CENTRE MANAGER REPORT

During 2025–2026, St Vincent’s Community Support Project Bradford continued to provide vital support to individuals and families across Barkerend and the wider Bradford area. Our centre has remained committed to responding to hardship with dignity, compassion and practical action, offering advice on debt, benefits, housing and immigration, alongside wellbeing activities and affordable household goods through our social enterprise.

This year we adapted services to meet changing community needs. Our community café was successfully relaunched as a weekly Pay What You Can café, ensuring continued access to affordable meals while fostering connection and reducing isolation. The new model has been well supported, with 62% of customers choosing to “Pay it Forward” for others.

We were proud to open Madeline’s Haven, a dedicated wellbeing space funded through the generosity of Madeline Swann. This calm and welcoming environment provides counselling and social prescribing support for local people.

Partnerships remain central to our work. New collaboration with Realise Training has enabled delivery of free accredited courses, helping people build skills and improve employment opportunities.

Despite ongoing financial pressures and sector-wide challenges, our centre continues to adapt and respond. Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening advice services, developing sustainable food support, and ensuring our centre remains a welcoming place of hope for all who need us.

Julie-Anne Webb
Centre Manager



CHAIR'S REPORT

The St Vincent's Bradford Local Oversight Group (LOG) has been revamped to oversee the work of the St Vincent's Community Support Project.

During 2025–2026, the St Vincent's Community Support Project has continued to be a vital source of support for people across Bradford who are facing financial hardship and uncertainty. At a time when many are navigating difficult circumstances and challenges, St Vincent's Centre has been a constant, offering practical help, reassurance and hope to those who needed it most. For many people, the St Vincent's Centre is a welcoming and trusted place where they can turn for guidance and practical support. Through its compassionate "one stop shop" approach, St Vincent's has continued to provide the help people need to move forward.

During this last year, the St Vincent's Advice and Immigration Service has given effective advice which has supporting 884 cases and secured financial gains of £2,213,946.86; outcomes which have brought greater stability and eased hardship for individuals and families. One of the most significant highlights of this year has been the opening of Madeline's Haven; a room where individuals can access emotional support and counselling in a setting designed to restore dignity, reassurance and hope.

The commitment of staff and volunteers has been at the heart of this work, meeting each person with kindness and respect. Volunteers continue to play an essential role in every aspect of the centre's work, and their impact is felt in the lives of the people we support each day. Their generosity, compassion and willingness to give their time strengthen every service we provide.

Looking ahead, St Vincent's Bradford face the ongoing challenge to securing the funding needed to maintain and develop its services. At the same time, there is a clear opportunity to strengthen connections with SVP conferences across Bradford and the surrounding area, as well as with local communities and parishes.

Chris Copley
Chair of the LOG



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



**Over 65,000 people
helped in the
year**

**324 food
parcels
given**

**7906
volunteer hours**

**67 childrens gifts
and 40 meals given
during Christmas
event**

**Over 60,000
customers served**

**Over 2000 meals
served**

**270 referrals
facilitated**

**653 Advice &
Immigration clients
helped**

**884 Advice &
Immigration cases
facilitated**

IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY



Over the last financial year, St Vincent's Community Support Project Bradford has continued to make a significant difference within the Barkerend community and across Bradford, supporting people facing financial hardship, social isolation and increasing uncertainty.

The impact of our work can be seen in both practical outcomes and the strengthened sense of hope and connection within our community. Through our partnership with Bradford Council, we supported 166 individuals and families to access low-cost essential household items, including white goods, beds and sofas, with goods totalling £67,345. These items enabled people to establish safe, stable homes and reduced financial pressures for households already facing significant challenges.



Alongside this, we provided 324 food parcels to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. As the food support landscape changes, we have continued developing more dignified and sustainable models of provision. Alongside our food bank and hygiene pantry, our partnership with a local CIC operating a "shop within a shop" has increased choice, reduced stigma and empowered people to access affordable food with dignity.

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Our community café has also had a meaningful impact. Following financial pressures and reduced footfall, the café was redesigned as a weekly Pay What You Can service. This model has proved highly successful, generating stronger community engagement while ensuring everyone can access a meal regardless of financial circumstance. Importantly, 62% of customers have chosen to contribute additional “Pay it Forward” donations, demonstrating the generosity and solidarity that exists within our community.

Volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do. Between April 2025 and March 2026, 1,693 volunteer sessions were completed, contributing an extraordinary 7,906 hours of support. Volunteers bring practical skills, warmth and peer encouragement that shape the welcoming culture of our centre. Many have also progressed into paid employment, demonstrating the life-changing confidence and experience volunteering can provide.



Our partnership with the Probation Service’s Community Payback programme has also delivered valuable practical improvements to the centre and grounds, enhancing our facilities for everyone who accesses them.

In response to changing need, we have focused resources where they have greatest impact, strengthening advice services and building new opportunities through partnerships such as Realise Training, which delivers accredited courses that improve employment prospects and financial resilience.

At a time of increasing demand and reduced funding, our work continues because of the commitment of our volunteers, partners, funders and local community. Together, we are creating a more resilient, compassionate and connected Bradford where people are supported not only in crisis, but towards lasting stability and hope.



Advice & Immigration

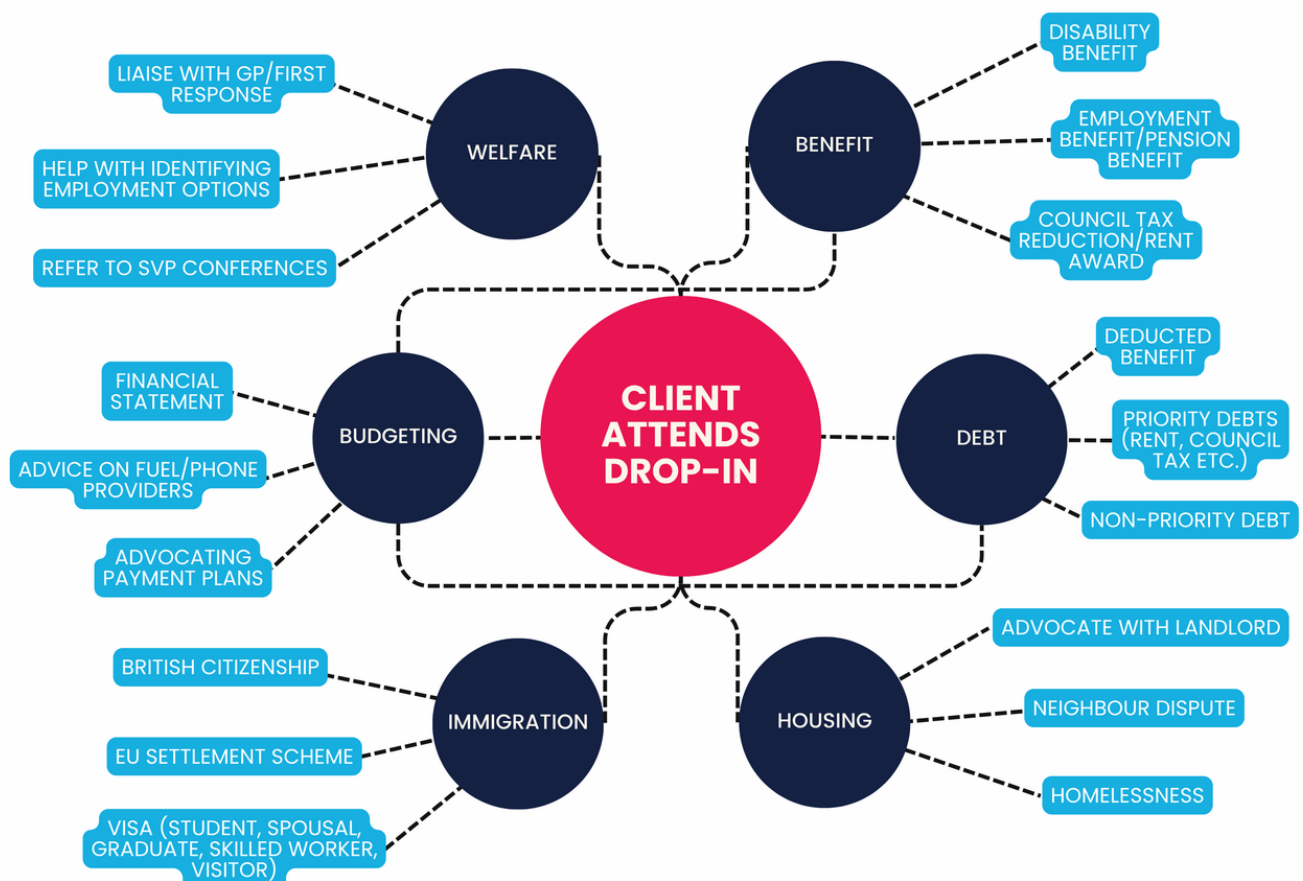
Key Achievements:

- Income generation for clients: over £2 million in financial support for our clients through successful welfare benefits claims and appeals.
- 653 clients seen and 884 cases facilitated by the Advice and Immigration team.

Challenges Encountered:

- The Bradford advice team offer a holistic service for our clients; this can sometimes be hard to demonstrate through figures alone.
- There has been a consistent year-on-year increase on demand, our team of 5 advisers work tirelessly to ensure our clients receive the highest level of support.

Below is a basic overview of the broad range of topics our advisers cover, followed by an example of a typical case to illustrate the complexity behind each of the case numbers reported:



Example of a Typical Case

Assisting with Disability and Welfare Forms

IF THE ADVISER SEES THAT THE CLIENT HAS SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH OR HEALTH CONDITION THAT NEEDS ATTENTION, THEY CAN SIGNPOST THE CLIENT TO AN APPROPRIATE ORGANISATION FOR SUPPORT.

DROP-IN

THE CLIENT ATTENDS A DROP-IN AND EXPLAINS THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHAT FORM THEY NEED ASSISTANCE WITH. THE ADVISER WILL MAKE A CASE AND BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE CLIENT.
(PIP, DLA, ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE, UC)

POSTING OFF

THE ADVISER WILL ARRANGE FOR THE FORM AND ANY SUPPORTING EVIDENCE TO BE POSTED TO THE DWP. ANY DOCUMENTS OF THE CLIENT WILL BE POSTED BACK.

IT USUALLY TAKES 8 WEEKS FOR A DECISION. SOME REVIEWS CAN TAKE UP TO 12 MONTHS.

APPOINTMENT

DURING THE APPOINTMENT, THE ADVISER WILL GO THROUGH THE FORM AND FILL IT APPROPRIATELY SO THE CLIENT HAS A HIGHER CHANCE OF A GETTING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION.

IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT NEEDED, THE ADVISER WILL OFFER TO ACT ON THEIR BEHALF AND RAISE CONCERNS TO THEIR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.

MANDATORY RECONSIDERATION

IF THE CLIENT IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE APPLICATION, THE ADVISER CAN REQUEST A MANDATORY RECONSIDERATION ON THE CLIENT'S BEHALF.

IT CAN TAKE UP TO 8 WEEKS FOR A MANDATORY RECONSIDERATION. IF THE DECISION IS NOT WHAT THE CLIENT WANTED, THE ADVISER CAN MOVE FORWARD TO APPEALING.

APPEAL

IF THE CLIENT IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE DECISION MADE FROM THE MANDATORY RECONSIDERATION, THEY CAN CHOOSE TO APPEAL AND THE ADVISER CAN COMPLETE A SSCS FORM ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT TO LODGE AN APPEAL.

ONCE THE APPEAL HAS BEEN LODGED, THE CLIENT WILL WAIT FOR AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL DATE FROM HMCTS. THIS CAN TAKE UP TO 12 MONTHS. IN THIS PERIOD THE ADVISER WILL WRITE A SUBMISSION OF APPEAL TO THE TRIBUNAL. SO A FINAL DECISION IS MADE.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Kelly G

I'd just like to say with utmost gratitude for all the help me and my boys have received over the years from Samantha at the SVP. Helping with all the stressful paperwork and forms and getting me the correct entitlement for my benefits. Samantha told me many things; I was unaware that my sons could also claim too and helped with all that as they both also have mental health and neurological issues. Sadly, in August I lost my eldest son to suicide, and again I reached out to Samantha, and she told me of the funeral fund grant which DWP didn't make me aware of.

Then my mental health started to decline immensely after my bereavement, and it was also round about the time I had to do my new PIP renewal but was too scared and hurt to leave my house, Samantha offered to collect the forms from me as she was passing through.

It wasn't until then I realised just how bad I was. Samantha saw the state of my self-harming and me also feeling suicidal, she and her colleague sat with me and rang first response and then I had the crisis team involved and I'm also getting help from other organisations that was recommended. Samantha actually took her own time and compassion to even get me support with other things not just benefits forms. She also passes on information about any UC funded courses that my other son may be interested in as he's trying to find ways to get involved with society, slowly but surely. The people who I've always spoken to on the phone desk at SVP are also very kind and helpful. I honestly don't know how I would have ever managed to do these forms on my own without the help from this wonderful organisation and the fantastic staff, especially Samantha.



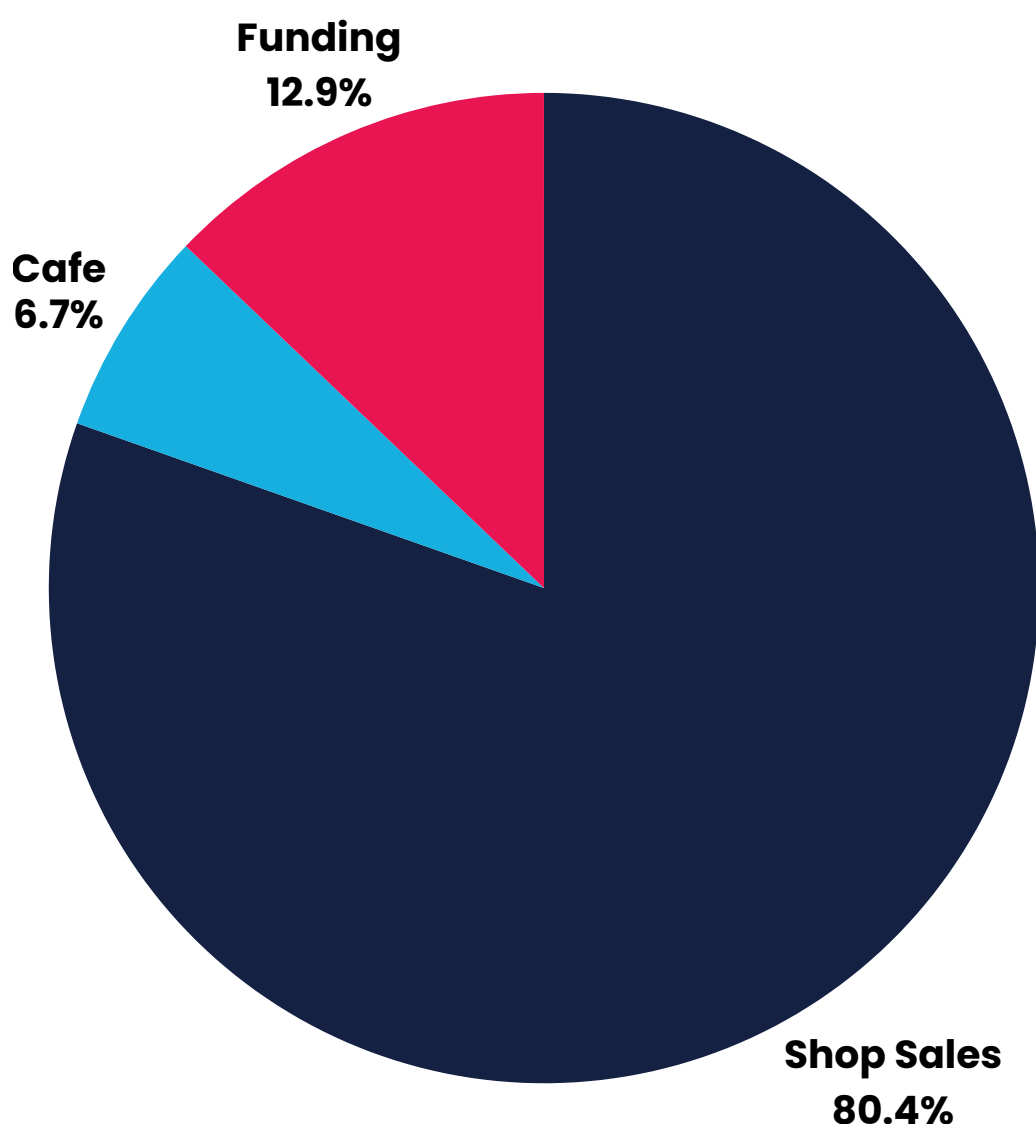
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Between April 2025 and March 2026, the Bradford Centre had three main sources of income – Shop, Cafe and Fundraising.

Shop Sales	£277,894
Cafe Sales	£23,270
Fundraising	£44,477



HOW YOU CAN HELP

£5

buys toiletry &
sanitary support

£10

buys emergency
utility support

£25

buys a weekly
food parcel

£50

buys 1 night in
emergency housing

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Are you a passionate individual who is looking for a way to give back to the local community?

We're always looking for dedicated volunteers who can spare a few hours every week to help us in our mission!

We're looking for:

- Admin support
- People to help run our food pantry
- Cleaners and organisers
- Cooks and kitchen assistants

Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteering in Bradford.

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every one of our volunteers, supporters and members who make the work of St Vincent's Centre, Bradford possible. From our weekly volunteers to our corporate partners who give their time, to regular donors and those who make a one-off donation – we couldn't do what we do without you.

