

5. DCDP Case Study: Coldside Church

The first six months of funding have been focused on getting to know and understand the community in which Coldside Church works.

Community challenges identified include the presence of persistent poverty, unsettled community dynamics as multi-storey blocks have been demolished and new housing introduced. There is some fearfulness, a lack of confidence and a lack of aspiration. Coldside is working to address these and other issues.

After consultation, it was decided to name the project WARM at Main Street, with WARM standing for Well-being, Activities, Respect and Meaning.

As part of the project we run the Main Street community café, to address the very real issue of food poverty. The café runs on a 'pay what you can' basis and now welcomes an average of 40 people on a Thursday. We have now appointed a Café Co-ordinator and are expanding to open on another day in the week. The café has partnered with Fareshare Food Cloud and Tesco who offer surplus food every week; visitors to the cafe are offered fresh fruit and vegetable to take home at no cost.

Through Equally Well, café visitors are also offered access to support services and organisations.

The café runs with the support of ten volunteers who, through their work, gain experience, skills, and increased confidence. The project is currently in the process of securing the Volunteer Friendly quality-assurance award.

Most recently, we have secured funding through Dundee City Councils Hogmanay Fund and the local Community Regeneration Forum to put on a Hogmanay event. This event will offer entertainment and food to those families most in need over the festive period. Not only will they be served a hot meal on the day, but they will be provided with a food bag to take away.

It is early days for WARM, but we hope to see a range of positive outcomes, including increased participation in positive community activities; increased self-esteem, confidence and skills; improved access to good, healthy food; improved access to support services and organisations; the development of leadership among local people experiencing poverty through volunteering and shaping what happens in their own community.

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