

**Grant Application from :**

Cre8 Macclesfield Limited

11 Belgrave Road, Macclesfield, SK11 7TW

Company number: 7737871 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Charity Number: 1147150 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**Dated: July 2024**

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**A funded proposal to continue the Cre8 Surplus Food Grocery across Macclesfield**

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cre8%20surplus%20food%20grocery>

One of the elements of Project Grow funded by the National Lottery over the last 5 years was to create a surplus food grocery and provide a coordinated approach to food re-distribution in Macclesfield. This element has grown exponentially since the pandemic and has now put Cre8 on the map in the wider area.

The Cre8 Surplus Food Grocery is now averaging 160 households per week benefitting approximately 500 individuals with the food that we divert from Landfill. We currently work with a network of 10 local partner organisations that we supply food to on a weekly basis. We are part of a coordinated charity food network in Macclesfield.

We feed 40 young people a week with surplus food at Cre8 youth clubs and supply ingredients made into hot meals to 8 households at cooking group each week.

Altogether Grocery provides food that benefits around 600 individuals across Macclesfield each week.

We see many people coming to grocery that need a space, a place to charge their phone and ask for advice with a problem that they don't know who else to ask. It's a place that they are guaranteed to see a familiar smiling face and food for their cupboards.

By offering a sustainable solution to addressing food insecurity, while also promoting a sense of community, mutual support, and diverting waste from landfill we are contributing to the overall well-being and health of our neighbourhood.

**The Impact of the Grocery and what we might lose**

The impact of our community surplus food grocery is multifaceted and far-reaching. By distributing 1.5 tonnes of food destined for landfill per week we are actively working to address food poverty and reduce food waste to an average of 160 households per week.

This directly impacts the lives of individuals and families who may otherwise struggle to access nutritious and affordable food. This approach of providing surplus food groceries allows people to maintain their sense of dignity and independence, by giving them the opportunity to pay for the food, they are able to feel like active participants rather than

passive recipients. This not only empowers people, but also helps to reduce the stigma often associated with accessing traditional food banks or receiving handouts.

Our Surplus Food Grocery also has a social impact. By providing flowers to The Mayfield day care centre, we are enabling them to develop activities for their attendees, increasing their experiences and overall quality of life. Contributing to combatting social isolation and fostering belonging for individuals who may otherwise feel marginalised. Through this initiative, we are growing relationships with our neighbours.

Surplus bread delivered to the Disability Advice Bureau feeds 16 elderly people on a weekly basis of beans and toast at their drop ins. Our partnership with Angel at My Table provided over 400 free meals to those in need over a 9 months period.

Our working partnerships with other organisations demonstrate our commitment to supporting and uplifting our broader community. By collaborating with these organisations, we are able to leverage additional resources and support to better serve the needs of our community and work towards our shared visions of social impact and positive change.

1. Our partners food recipients on a weekly basis.

| <b>Organisations</b>                                 |
|--|
| Cre8 Club, 1-1 Sessions, Music                       |
| Salvation Army                                       |
| Scoop and Scales                                     |
| The Core Pantry                                      |
| Emerging Futures - Hostels (Mill Lane & Glegg Street |
| Silk Life Food bank                                  |
| The Mayfield day care Centre                         |
| Angel @ My Table Cafe                                |
| The Bridgend Centre                                  |
| One Project  |
| JDI  |
| DIB  |
| Hope Centre  |
| Hope Central   |
| Windyways  |
| ROAR   |
| Edge 360 ( Hurdsfield)                               |

Our staff have mentored our volunteers, particularly those with lived experiences of living in a deprived estate, serves as a source of inspiration and empowerment for others facing similar challenges. By providing role models and opportunities for personal and professional development, we are contributing to the overall well-being and resilience of our community members.

The cost to society if our employed staff were unemployed would be significant, as they play a crucial role in facilitating the operations and impact of our community surplus food grocery. Their expertise, dedication, and contributions to the community are invaluable, and their unemployment would represent a loss of valuable human capital and social impact.

In terms of the social aspects and experiences of our volunteers, being part of a community and actively contributing to positive change has a significant impact on their sense of belonging and self-worth. By volunteering at Grow, individuals have the opportunity to

connect with others, build relationships, and make a tangible difference in the lives of those around them.

Overall, our community surplus food grocery is a catalyst for positive social change, addressing food poverty, social isolation, and environmental sustainability while fostering a sense of community and empowerment among our staff, volunteers and community members.

### **The geographical area the activity / service will take place – Macclesfield**

The Grocery operates twice a week from St Barnabas on the Moss, once from the Green in the Corner café on the Hurdsfield Estate and once from Bollington Town Hall.

We use St Barnabas Church to prepare, sort and store food, throughout the week, operating across 3 days Tuesday – Thursday inclusive.

The project brings high volume of food from Fareshare Manchester.

### **How long will the project/ service last?**

The purpose of the funding is to ensure the Grocery can continue for another 12 months. We have spent five years working to establish a self-sustaining, supporting and safe environment to deliver a community-led food grocery, using grant funding but currently Cre8 is subsidising the grocery project

We are working towards a sustainable model of Grocery so it can be a reliable source of food and wellbeing for our community.

Grocery is always going to need additional fundraising in its current model of £10,000 and Cre8's larger financial position means that it is unable to sustain the grocery and it has to be independent financially.

Over the last 5 years we have put together different working models that have not been sufficient enough for the project to be self-sustaining due to rising in running costs.

We are working with our food partners, volunteers and community to create a better model for the grocery.

In the long term this is not sustainable and takes resources away from core work with young people. We will work with partners to find a new model of operating, but if this is not possible Cre8 Grocery will be closing.

### **How do we align our project with the Macclesfield Town Council Strategy**

Healthy Communities

- Healthy residents who understand the services available to them.
- Encourage residents to get involved with free activities designed to improve their health and wellbeing and to lead happy lives.

- Support a resilient and adaptable voluntary sector who are valued, who can in turn support the community.

The granting of this major grant will enable Cre8 to offer the continuation of the Grocery project to the residents of Macclesfield, this in turn will provide a hub and focus for residents to engage with voluntary work, but also to get involved with our Grocery which enables them to eat healthier, with access to low cost food. We also offer wrap around services such as our community café at St Barnabas Church and the Community Cooking Group which is volunteer led and enables a bumping space for residents to interact, and a focal point for groups to promote services open to the community. Through supporting Cre8 the town council is supporting our voluntary sector as we are able to provide full training and support for our volunteers to engage in delivery of our food Grocery.

*Widen opportunities for local people to experience new things and achieve profound change as part of a wider movement for social justice and equality.*

For many, the Grocery is not just a place to do a shop, it is a place of community and growth. Handing out food is only part of the story. Grocery is about community / being together / Tackling things like social isolation, disempowerment and disenchantment, brokenness, poor mental and physical health, lack of opportunities etc.

### **How many people do we help**

We support around 160 households per week (ranging from 2 person households to 8+ households), we also offer voluntary opportunities for around 50 volunteers across the provision over a 12-month period. We offer voluntary experience for young volunteers and offer full training and support to complete the volunteering. We mentor and support our volunteers and provide meaningful experiences.

We provide a warm and welcoming space at Welcome Café that sees 35 – 40 households come before Grocery for free coffee and food and a social space, where we have opened the doors to Police Community Support Officers and Peaks and Plains to connect with our community.

We support local schools when we have additional items such as flowers, seeds and plants and easter eggs.

We indirectly support 100's of people on a weekly basis through grocery, through so many outlets.

### **Who will benefit?**

There are many that benefits from our project,

- The Macclesfield community that accesses the grocery on a weekly basis.
- Other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services within Macclesfield.
- Reducing the demand on statutory services such as social services and school by responding to referrals.
- The environment as we are diverting tonnes of wates food from landfill.
- The community cooking club.
- Children that attend clubs, 1-1 sessions.

### **How will you monitor the service/project to show impact and value for money?**

Our budget is monitored, this feeds into our governance through our Trustees, we have a dedicated Trustee who supports the development of the Grocery service.

We complete volunteer records on our Charity Log system and can map the journey of our volunteers through 121 interviews

We have a Finance Administrator and Treasurer that manages and safeguards the Grocery finances, through the Finance Committee which reports into the Board of Cre8 Trustees.

**Budget**

| Income                             | Description  | Amount         |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Subscriptions                      | Based on 160 households per week £5 per shop over 48 weeks   | £38,400        |
| Partner Organisation Donations     | £25 per month total from those we support towards costs  | £ 300          |
| Unsecured Grant funding Required   | £10,000 (8.5k Macc Town Council 1.5k Bollington Town Council – or other grant funding to be applied for. | £10,000        |
|                                    | <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>£48,700</b> |
| Staffing Costs                     | Grocery Lead Worker  | £16,312        |
|                                    | Various sessional workers for driving  | £15,295        |
| Fareshare Fees                     | Based on actuals last quarter £750 per month   | £ 9,000        |
| Vehicle Fuel                       | Based on £300 per month  | £ 3,600        |
| Vehicle Servicing, MOT Repairs Etc | Based on £1,000 per vehicle  | £ 2,000        |
| Waste Collection                   | Monthly collections.   | £ 540          |
| Heat, Lighting, Utilities          | St Barnabas  | £ 900          |
| Consumables                        | PPE, Cleaning, Labels, Printing  | £ 600          |
| DBS process                        | Per Year admin and cost  | £ 200          |
|                                    | <b>Total Expenditure</b>   | <b>£48,447</b> |
| <b>Net profit</b>                  | <b>Small contingency</b>   | <b>£253</b>    |

**Organisation accounts attached for 2022 – 2023.****An explanation of why the circumstances are exceptional.**

Cre8 has had increasing demand on all of its services over the last 12-24 months.

Our reserves have been used to maintain levels of service across Cre8 in the absence of large funding bids, we are still seeking to complete a crowd funder and various smaller grant applications.

Consequently, we are unable to continue to subsidise the Cre8 Grocery and it is not possible to establish the grocery as a fully sustaining model. We are short of £10,000 across the year and therefore are seeking £8.5k from Macclesfield Town Council and £1.5k from Bollington Town Council, we will also seek to apply for other small funding pots.

The funding of 10k will subsidise the real project costs, we know that waste food supply has diminished due to supermarkets becoming more proactive with waste, with schemes such as “too good to go”, and others. We know that we need to provide a wide variety of produce worth approximately £25/30 for the £5 donation. We believe this to be the right amount, “Bread and Butter” charge £8 however through our consultation, we believe this would be prohibitive for our customers. We need to buy Fareshare produce and it enables us to

deliver a quality service, and our cost around fuel need to be funded. Our core staffing costs are covered through subscriptions.

We have applied for follow on funding Cheshire East Cost of Living Fund – unsuccessful, various other grant funders for core Cre8 costs, have been unsuccessful.

We are looking to apply to the Austin Pilkington Trust in July 2024 when the grant fund opens <https://austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/how-to-apply/>

We looked at the Eat it Up Fund but were advised that our application would be unsuccessful via CVS.

The Grocery is so important within our community as it is the step on from the food bank, without low affordable surplus food, without the grocery the demand on our partnering service would increase by up to 160 households a week.