



Crewe 2025

PROPOSAL

We are excited about our upcoming move to the Cheshire East area and wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves and share more about who we are.



WHO WE ARE

Changing Lives Together is a charity that has been serving the people of Cheshire for over 25 years! Our founders, Gary Cliffe and Deina Smith (pictured right), established the organisation in Winsford with a mission to find innovative solutions for environmental and social challenges that benefit local communities. We have evolved over the years and we now offer a wide range of services to meet different needs.

We are guided by our commitment to sustainability, community support, empowerment, and integrity in everything we do.



WHAT WE DO



The Very Green Grocery

We offer affordable groceries while helping reduce food waste. We work with local supermarkets, food distributors and manufacturers. We accept donations of surplus food, making sure good food doesn't go to waste. People sign up to become a member for free and can pick up groceries for a £6 donation. They always walk away with full shopping bags of groceries which are worth considerable more!

Retail

In our retail stores we offer different items such as furniture, appliances, small electricals, bicycles, bric-a-brac, re-use paint, paint accessories and more. We receive donations from members of the public and through partnership companies. We offer a furniture collection service around the Cheshire area, to collect large items. The ReUse paint is collected from local waste sites to prevent it from going into landfill.

Buddy and Befriending

This essential project helps hundreds of adults across Cheshire who are lonely or socially isolated in one of the most effective and simple ways possible - simply by giving them the opportunity to talk to someone. We offer a telephone befriending service and also run local 'Warm Welcome' groups to encourage face to face befriending, and provide a warm and welcoming space.

Community Transport

We run a community transport scheme around Cheshire in three different services: Dial-a-Ride, Rural rider and bus hire. Our accessible minibuses are designed for people who may find public transport difficult to use, including those with mobility needs or social anxiety. For our bus hire service, we offer affordable and safe minibus transportation for community groups, clubs, associations, and charities.



WHAT WE DO



Support Schemes

The Support Scheme is an initiative run by three local authorities (Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington) plus a number of Housing Associations. The scheme supports people who are in a variety of emergency situations with household items including furniture, appliances, beds and bedding, starter packs (crocery, cutlery, cookware, glassware etc.) and carpets



Family Support

Our Family Support Workers (FSW) are trained professionals who provide impartial assistance to the school, parents / guardians, and most importantly, the children. They work to the needs of the school which can be throughout the full school year or term time only. Acting as a liaison between the school and parents / guardians, our FSWs are dedicated to fostering positive relationships and promoting the well-being of the entire school community.



ReCycles

Our mission is to save bikes from going to waste by refurbishing and reusing them, offering quality, affordable options for everyone. From toddlers to adults, we provide a wide range of bikes that have been carefully serviced and restored with new parts. In addition to selling refurbished bikes, we also offer a full range of bike services and essential repairs like puncture fixes, gear re calibration, and more.

This will be in our Crewe store!



Community Cafes

We run two community cafes, one in our Winsford Community Hub, and the other in the Very Green Grocery in Northwich. We offer breakfast items, lunch items, drinks and snacks – all at very affordable prices and in a friendly, welcoming environment. We run a whole host of community events at both locations such as Over 50's Luncheons, breakfast with characters (such as Spiderman and Santa!) 'Crafternoon Tea' and more!





HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER



Partnership opportunities

Work together on community projects, events, and initiatives to make a bigger impact.



Cross promotion

Collaborate with us to raise awareness of your services while helping us reach more people in need.



Referral network

We connect customers to other organisations when needed, ensuring no one is left without support.

OUR COLLABORATION EFFORTS

- **Food sharing and food swaps**
 - We work with other food groups, foodbanks and community food networks (e.g. Cheshire East Food Alliance, Cheshire West Voluntary Action, Warrington Voluntary Action) to swap products and share excess food
- **Networking and collaboration**
 - We are in regular contact with other groups and organisations to share information and ideas
 - We support local animal and wildlife rescues with surplus vegetables, bread and pet food
- **Transport**
 - We have a dedicated Very Green Grocery van and access to CLT vans to help with food collection