

Community Furniture Stores

Impact Report
2024-2025



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Reflections on the year



David Nash
Chair

The challenge for anyone new to the Community Furniture Stores is to understand what it is we do. Are we about recycling? Are we working to support those in need? Do we offer opportunities to build skills that potentially aid employment? And where exactly are we located?

Working across York, Selby and Scarborough we strive to do all of these things, but how that makes an impact together is what is most important. In this, our first dedicated Impact Report, we aim to showcase just what it is we do.

Looking back at the last year, the most important statistic for me is that we have supported nearly 5,000 struggling families in our local communities with our work. We are often the difference that enables families to move forward in their lives. Our support for the York Financial Assistance Scheme is one way we that working in partnership with others helps us provide the things that make a house a home.

Our IT Reuse project, through distribution of refurbished devices (more than 200 this year) then turns that home into a base to enable access – access to jobs; access to school and access to further support. We have also professionalised our volunteer offer too - providing around 125 places this year and looking to grow.

There is so much more we can do and I'm pleased that the Board and senior leadership of the charity have embarked on an exciting program of change. Building on solid foundations, we believe that by doing things differently we can bring these impacts to even more people.

A refreshed organisation awaits – one that is bold and ambitious to more effectively reach the people we serve. Watch this space as we transform Community Furniture Stores! I look forward very much to the journey in the coming year.

I hope you enjoy reading more about what we are achieving in this report. None of what we do would be possible without the dedication of our board, our staff and our volunteers and I'd like to end by sending my heartfelt thanks to them all. The charity is nothing without its people.

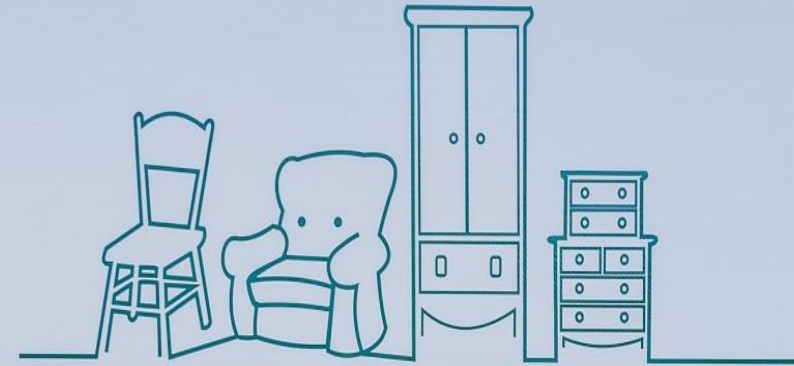
I'm excited to see what we can achieve together.

About us

We believe everyone should have the chance to live well. That's why we work to ensure people across our communities have access to the support they need to improve their homes, lives, and lifestyles.

We do this in three ways:

- 1. We reuse and repair donated items to provide quality and affordable furniture to people and families in need**
- 2. We work in partnership to provide IT equipment to people who would otherwise be digitally excluded**
- 3. We provide opportunities to learn new skills and be part of a community through our workshops and Volunteering Programme**



community furniture store

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01723 267177
www.cfstores.org.uk

Salisbury Street, Scarborough
charity number 1156411



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Chair



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Prakash Mistry
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Tomothy Leonard
Trustee



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Trustee



Vera Van Gool
Trustee



Emma Thorne
Trustee

This year, we said farewell to Tim who sadly stepped down from the Board due to work pressures. We were pleased to welcome three new trustees: Tom Meares, Miles Goring, and Tony Jameson-Allen who each bring valuable experience to the team.

Our stores

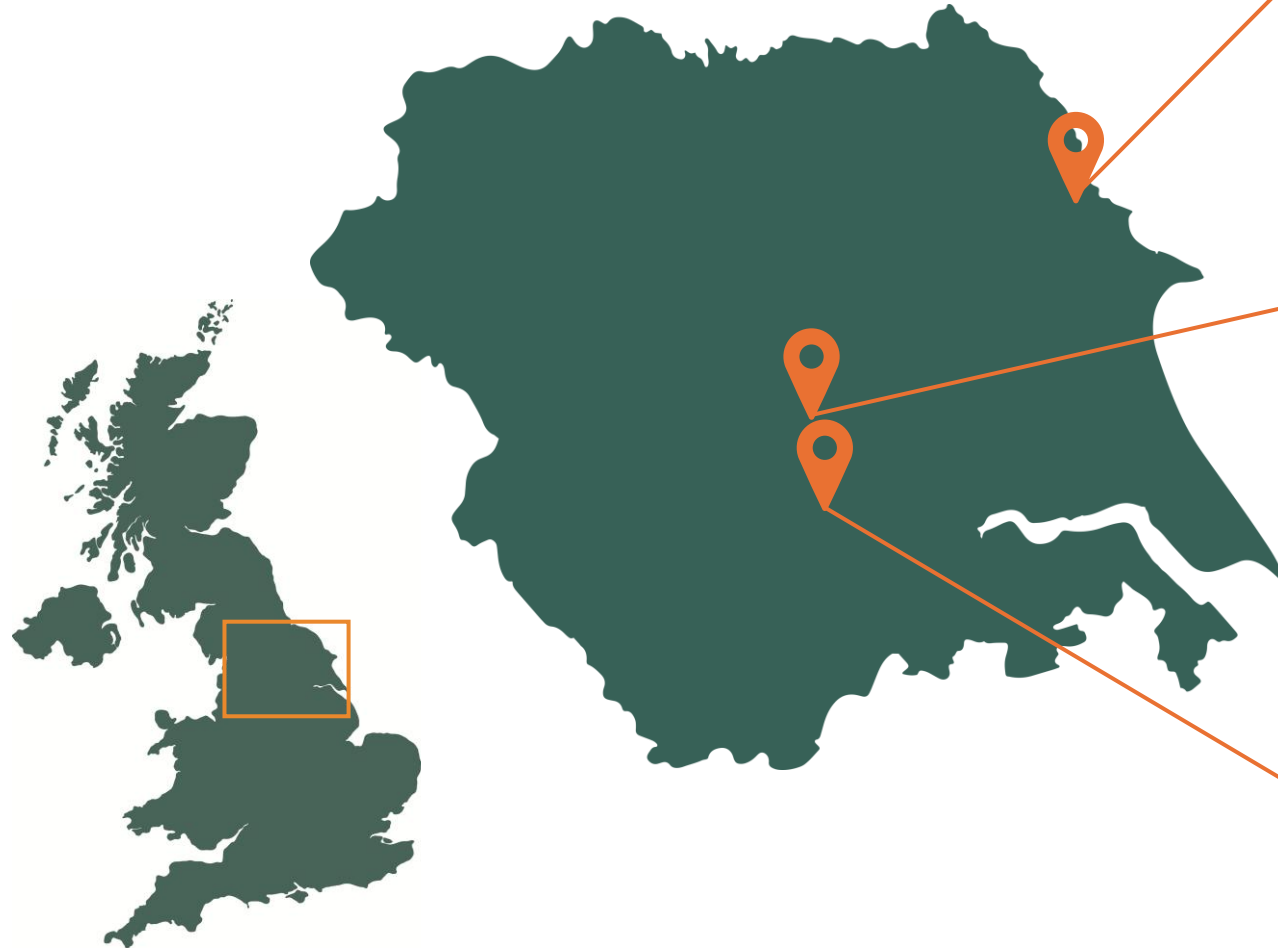
Scarborough



York



Selby



How CFS works

We collect pre-loved furniture from our local communities and offer it at low cost through our stores in York, Selby, and Scarborough.

Our van teams collect donations from the local community. Once back at our stores, items are cleaned, prepped, and displayed ready for sale at affordable prices. We offer an extra 30% discount to those on means-tested benefits, students, and refugees/asylum seekers.

We also run a number of projects including IT ReUse, the Scarborough Carpentry Workshop, and our newly launched Volunteering Programme.



Tackling furniture poverty



£126,000

worth of discounts were provided to people in need



4,932

people and families were supported

We help people furnish their homes with dignity. Our discount scheme makes quality furniture accessible to those who need it most, while saving tonnes of waste from landfill.

In 2024–25, we provided over £126,000 in discounts across our three stores, supporting 4,932 individuals and families in need. This included over 8,700 discounted furniture items sold to those on means-tested benefits, students, refugees and asylum seekers.

Beyond affordability, we're tackling environmental impact too. We diverted over 400 tonnes of furniture from landfill by saving nearly 19,000 items from disposal.

This work means more families are able to create a safe, comfortable home – and less waste ends up in our environment.



400

tonnes of furniture were diverted from landfill

IT ReUse

Based at our York store, IT ReUse refurbishes donated devices and distributes them to people experiencing digital poverty.

This year brought exciting developments. We welcomed a new Project Lead who has built new partnerships and streamlined our processes.

Over the year, we distributed 224 devices, supporting more than 12 people on average each month. We also began exploring income generation through e-waste recycling and developed new software systems for better reporting.

Volunteering was a huge success. We provided volunteering opportunities to over 30 volunteers who developed their digital, repair, and coding skills. An additional 19 volunteers joined us through corporate volunteer days.

224 

devices were donated to people in digital poverty



Scarborough Workshop

This year marked the final chapter for our Scarborough Carpentry Workshop, which sadly closed its doors in July due to funding challenges. While we are deeply disappointed to see it go, we are incredibly proud of all that was achieved in its final year.

We welcomed 18 volunteers throughout the year, together, they completed 62 project pieces, averaging three to four repairs each week, and generated over £2,000 in revenue, all reinvested back into the space. Each piece restored gave a second life to items that would otherwise have ended up in landfill.

It was a year of growth and opportunity, one volunteer moved into employment, and others progressed into further training or volunteering. We also introduced popular upholstery sessions, alongside a vibrant programme that included Dunelm Upcycling Days, planter-building for Hunmanby Station, home repair classes, and bird box-making with CaVCA.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and partners who made it possible, and to Katie for her inspiring leadership and dedication.

“I wanted to take on a volunteering opportunity to gain confidence and learn new skills and CFS has helped me achieve that”

–Workshop Volunteer



Volunteering at CFS

Volunteers are the heart of what we do. This year, we welcomed a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to lead our new Volunteering Programme which has seen our volunteer numbers grow to 124 across the three stores.

We piloted Build to Thrive, a six-week, goal-focused programme designed for people with additional needs. Participants rotate through different areas of the organisation and complete training including First Aid and PAT testing. The programme culminates in a joyful graduation event across all three stores.

The programme has been launched in partnership with Up for Yorkshire to expand volunteer capacity beyond our work at CFS and further into local communities.

“I’ve only been here two weeks, and it has already improved my mental health completely. The physical aspect of the work makes you feel alive and healthy, and my thoughts are now clearer, with a stronger sense of purpose.”

-Scarborough Volunteer



Funding and contracts

In our York store, we deliver the York Financial Assistance Scheme on behalf of the City of York Council.

We provide white goods and second-hand furniture to those who are most in need in the city. Customers are welcomed to the store to choose their items which are delivered by our van teams to their homes.

310 

households were supported through YFAS last year

We are grateful for the support of funders which has enabled us to deliver our projects.

IT ReUse:

- Financial Inclusion Steering Group, City of York Council
- Shears Foundation
- Fix the Digital Divide
- Whitwam Family Fund
- York Children's Trust
- York Common Good Trust
- Awards for All, National Lottery

Volunteering Programme:

- Heart of Yorkshire, Two Ridings
- Scurrah Wainwright Charity
- King Charles III Charitable Fund

Scarborough Workshop:

- Albert Hunt Trust
- Dulverton Trust
- Skipton Building Society

- The North Yorkshire Coast Fund, Two Ridings
- Truemark Trust
- North Yorkshire Inspire, NYCC

And to those who have supported our operations more generally:

- Riccall Resilience
- Adult Social Care, City of York Council



What's next for CFS?

Big change is ahead! In the coming year, we are bringing our three stores together into one organisation and will be rebranding to increase our visibility and impact.

We're also excited to launch our Community Bike Project in Selby. Working with Cogs Cycles and Up for Yorkshire, we'll refurbish donated bikes and give them to people who need affordable transport, referred through our partners. It's another step forward in creating practical, inclusive solutions for local people.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

“Everyday at CFS is fantastic.”

– Lois, York Volunteer



And finally... get involved!

There are many ways to support our mission:



Volunteer with us: Join our growing team and make a difference in your community. Whether it's helping in store, supporting projects like IT ReUse, or joining our van teams, there's a role for you.



Donate your pre-loved furniture: Your unwanted items can help someone furnish their home affordably. We offer free local collection across the region.



Partner with us: We believe in doing more together. If you're a local organisation, school, or business, we'd love to explore how we can collaborate to support our communities.



Shop with us: Everyone is welcome in our stores! Pop into our York, Selby, or Scarborough shops to browse quality, affordable furniture - and say hello while you're there.



Spread the word: Follow us, share our work, and tell your friends. The more people who know about us, the more impact we can have.

Contact details

York Community Furniture Store

The Raylor Centre, James St, York,
YO10 3DW
01904 426444



Selby Community Furniture Store

Unit 2, Bawtry Road, Selby,
YO8 8NB
01757 291444



Scarborough Community Furniture Store

Unit 5B, Mount View Business Park,
Salisbury Street, YO12 4EH
01723 267177



Thank you!



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