



Compassion in Action
... heart prints of love meeting the needs of the people!

‘Unity in the Community’

Founded in 2006 from humble roots in St Mary’s Church Hall, Lowton, Compassion in Action (CIA) continues to meet the needs of people in crisis – providing furniture, food and clothes, accommodation, skills training, education and advocacy.



In 2014, the charity was the proud recipient of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is an MBE for volunteer groups. Three years later, CEO Pam Gilligan’s name was engraved in a stone star on the pavement outside Leigh Town Hall as a permanent tribute to her hard work and commitment.

Working with valued partners across the borough, CIA creates community solutions for the community – taking a holistic approach to service provision and giving hope to the most vulnerable in our society.

In addition to operating a food and furniture distribution centre in Atherton and a Community Outlet in Lowton, the charity has purpose-built a Community Village – centred around its Patrick House headquarters in Leigh.

The Village includes apartments for people with learning difficulties or disabilities; Haven House – a recovery-focused wellbeing centre for adults who are living with depression, anxiety, emotional distress and isolation; and Oasis House 1 & 2, which offer therapeutic non-clinical short-term residential interventions in partnership with – and commissioned by – Greater Manchester Mental Health.

Throughout the pandemic, CIA delivered 23,594 food hampers to families impacted by Covid. In addition, 3,108 toys were distributed along with 438 food parcels to families who had been referred to the charity by local agencies in December 2024.

Awarded a Bronze Certificate by The Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme, CIA has been hosting a weekly Veterans' Brunch since 2015.

CIA's work is well evidenced, robustly audited and is undertaken with the support of key partners – including Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council; Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester; Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS FT; Greater Manchester Police; Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service; and local business leaders, as well as a variety of third sector organisations.

Through its extensive network and close community links, CIA is able to provide seamless pathways out of crisis into independent living – promoting strong social connections and unity in the community.



Pam Gilligan, CEO of Compassion in Action