



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Co-operative Care Colne Valley working with Kirklees Council

Great care is possible through co-operation

At [Co-operative Care Colne Valley](#), we started offering care and support in our community in March 2021. We offer quality care that is powered by our community and that goes beyond fulfilling basic needs – we want our members to live good lives.

The local authority has played an essential role in our success. Firstly, we were able to apply and received start-up grant funding which has been key to our set up. Then, despite the hard work we put in, we found it difficult to overcome some of the challenges – like recruitment of the Registered Manager, an essential person for a regulated care service operation. Our local council has stepped in creatively – we were offered a secondment of an experienced and enthusiastic person with the right skills and expertise for the job. With their support, we were able to prepare everything that was needed for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration so that we can start offering care and support in our community.

We have an ongoing dialogue with the local authority who, while being bound by procurement rules, are very keen to work alongside us to pilot new ways of working. The council have found a way to signpost people needing services in our direction, which has been very helpful in our financially fragile start-up period and have worked alongside us to support recruitment of both care staff and volunteers.



We still need to be patient and continue to learn and work hard to establish our fledgling care co-operative. We would not be able to get this far without the support of our local community and the local council as well as co-operators up and down the country. Yet it's great to know that our members already benefit from and value what we do. Alison, our care staff member says: 'I started work in June and haven't looked back! I absolutely love it. It's so rewarding it doesn't feel like a job. I have already learnt so much in the short space of time I have worked here through the training I have been given.'



For further information contact:

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