



## **Kell's Kitchen at Pinetrees Community Centre**

### **Café Impact & Development Report**

#### **Overview**

Kell's Kitchen has firmly established itself as the heart of the Pinetrees community, providing not only affordable food but also a vital hub for connection, wellbeing, and mental health outreach.

Now in our second full year of delivery, we have proven that the café is far more than a food service, it is a community anchor, fostering resilience, reducing isolation, and creating opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

#### **Successes**

- Thursday Lunch Club – A weekly sell out event and now recognised as a popular social gathering in the parish. It has become a highlight for many residents, providing both a hot meal and a chance to connect.
- Community Events – Hosted a successful Ladies Networking and a Bingo evening and are now exploring more themed events based on feedback.
- Catering Excellence – Delivered multiple buffet bookings to a commercial standard at highly affordable prices, enhancing our reputation beyond the centre.
- Creative Engagement – The Art Club continues to grow in popularity, with demand strong enough to expand to a second day.
- 5\* Food Hygiene Rating – Recently awarded the highest rating by Environmental Health, demonstrating our commitment to safety and quality.

#### **Challenges & Learning**

Midway through our first year, the departure of the café manager caused significant operational disruption. However, this challenge became a turning point. By promoting from within, we not only stabilised the café but also created a stronger, more resilient team that reflects and serves the community with authenticity.

## Staffing & Volunteers

Our team is the backbone of Kell's Kitchen:

- Siobhan (Café Manager) – Promoted in May 2024, an existing staff member and parish resident whose leadership has been instrumental in building a warm, community driven atmosphere.
- Hayley (Assistant Manager) – Also hired in May 2024, another local resident, bringing valuable skills and continuity to the café.
- Jo (Casual Staff) – Runs our Saturday morning service, also a parish resident.
- Volunteers – 15 dedicated volunteers (one-third are local residents), supported with training, therapy access, and wellbeing initiatives.

We also:

- Run a strong work experience programme with UET College, regularly welcoming students.
- Provide wellbeing support for all staff and volunteers, including therapy access, colleague of the month rewards, free meals on shift, and personalised training pathways.

This investment in people has created a highly motivated, loyal team and a café culture that customers notice and value.

## Looking Ahead

Our vision for Kell's Kitchen is to continue evolving as a community wellbeing hub, offering much more than affordable food.

Key goals include:

- Sustaining affordability while continuing to offer free meals to those most in need.
- Expanding café usage between 3pm–6.30pm with targeted community activities.
- Developing Friday evening events such as bingo, themed nights, and regular networking groups.
- Providing 3 apprenticeships (2 for parish residents, 1 for a wider applicant).
- Establishing a "Back to Work" pathway, moving volunteers into meaningful paid employment.
- To expand the Lunch Club and operate from Moredon Community Centre on Tuesday's from November 2025, subject to Parish Council approval.
- Having recently installed new tables and chairs and deep cleaned some of the existing ones that were suitable for retention, the next stage is to upgrade the facility with a complete repaint and the contractors responsible are expecting to complete this work before the end of October. Two opposite walls will remain in white whilst the front and rear will be branded in the charity green colour. With the new LED lighting recently installed, this should complete a broad update and modernisation of the look and feel of the café.

- Delivering the Community Connection Café & Wellbeing Outreach Project – creating a safe, inclusive space for diverse and vulnerable groups, tackling social isolation, and promoting mental and emotional resilience.

### **Community Connection Café & Wellbeing Outreach Project Objectives**

- Promote mental health and emotional wellbeing through peer support, creative sessions, and signposting.
- Tackle social isolation by offering regular, welcoming opportunities for connection.
- Encourage intergenerational activities to strengthen community cohesion.
- Provide accessible activities that support healthy lifestyles and emotional resilience.
- Work in partnership with local organisations to maximise impact and avoid duplication.

### **Key Activities**

- Weekly Community Café Drop-in (Mon–Fri, 9am–3pm): Low cost meals and drinks with informal peer support and signposting.
- Outreach Wellbeing Sessions:
  - Art for Wellness Workshops (twice weekly) – Creative expression and mindfulness.
  - Men’s Support Group & Women’s Friendship Circle (fortnightly) – Peer led spaces for connection.
  - Walk & Talk Group (weekly) – Combines physical activity with safe, informal conversation.
  - Mindfulness & Mental Health Awareness (quarterly) – Practical resilience workshops in partnership with professionals.
- Intergenerational Events (quarterly): Games nights, gardening, and “youth café takeovers” bringing generations together.

### **Conclusion**

Kell’s Kitchen has become a trusted, thriving, and essential part of Pinetrees Community Centre. With a strong track record of delivery, a resilient staffing model, and ambitious plans for the future, we are uniquely positioned to deepen our impact, extend our reach, and continue building a community café that nourishes both body and mind.