

S2 Food Poverty Network- Newsletter No 22, October 2026



Welcome to the twenty second newsletter. I make updates every couple of months following our Trustees'/ Managers' meeting.

I begin by repeating a plea made in each newsletter:-

- If you are a regular donor, please send your contact email address to me. Please also indicate whether you would like a personal invitation to see Food Bank at work. My email address is: jtrhull@outlook.com

This plea has already solicited supportive, interesting replies. Several long-standing donors have taken up my invitation to visit Food Bank and Shop and see them in operation. I now send a personal e-copy of this Newsletter to some 40+ donors who have made contact.

1. One-off Change in Newsletter publication Schedule

My usual pattern is to distribute a Newsletter after each bi-monthly meeting of the S2 Trustees. Newsletter No 21 was published in July 2026. The next meeting of the Trustees has, however, only just happened in October. The meeting was moved to allow space for Trustees to hold an Away Day in September to allow discussion of a new Annual Plan for developing provision in 2027 and 2028.

This Newsletter, in familiar style, will **(a)** update readers on patterns and provisions in Food Bank and Food Shop. It will also **(b)** inform them about the new Annual Plan.

First, however, I seek readers' help in two important areas. We are appealing for good people to undertake the role of Trustees and strengthen our Board. We are also seeking to appoint a new Treasurer.

2. Could you be a S2FPN Trustee?

Currently we are a team of 10 volunteers. Most of us are retired. We meet bi-monthly. Most of us, in addition to volunteering in Food Bank or Shop, undertake additional developmental roles on behalf of the Board. We meet bi-monthly as a Board.

We would welcome new trustees. If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, please send an email to jtrhull@outlook.com. I will share with those who contact a role description. I will treat all expressions of interest in confidence.

3. Key role as Treasurer of S2 Food Poverty Network

The role of Treasurer has been fulfilled by Geraldine Roberts. Geraldine submitted her resignation to the October meeting. She leaves a splendid

legacy. She provides to trustees bi-monthly a clear picture of our financial health and commitments. She works closely with our Book-keeper, Sam, who deals with detail and admin. The post is voluntary and unpaid.

In our meeting we expressed unanimous gratitude to Geraldine. We are delighted that she will continue her good work as a volunteer.

We are at the start of a very important recruiting and appointment process. If you, dear reader, are interested in the position, or have any advice for us, please let me know. (jtrhull@outlook.com)

4. Our rich data

Our manager, Katelyn, had tabled figures of take-up. She prefers to record numbers of households receiving food support. My previous Newsletters recorded numbers of people fed.

She adds an interesting comparison. We know how many households are registered as eligible to use the Shop. She allows comparison of the number of registered householders with those taking up their shopping “slots”. I suspect the difference in the summer months is partially attributable to school holiday impacts: other special provisions are available.

Please also note: September was a five-week month for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Households fed per month 2026			
	Food Shop 2026	Food Bank 2026	Households registered for Shop
May	82	28	85
June	76	50	86
July	83	48	88
August	76	52	85
September	83	71	94

Katelyn supplied clear data on Shop and Food Bank expenditures and incomes. We spent £34,742 on food. Against this we can off-set (Extras) income to the Shop from selling “special donated items” like cakes, biscuits which are donated but do not fit our food lists. We also have an income from “membership” as each client pays £5 per week on visiting Food Shop.

	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
FOODBANK	£1,930.42	£2,193.08	£960.04	£1,902.59	£1,294.03	£8,280.16
SHOP	£4,461.73	£4,950.30	£7,102.75	£4,193.40	£5,753.78	£26,461.96
TOT EXP	£6,392.15	£7,143.38	£8,062.79	£6,095.99	£7,047.81	£34,742.12
EXTRAS	£308.50	£416.90	£589.90	£912.77	£408.00	£2,636.07
MEMB	£1,275.00	£1,170.58	£1,645.00	£1,180.00	£1,200.00	£6,470.58
TOT INC	£1,583.50	£1,587.48	£2,234.90	£2,092.77	£1,608.00	£9,106.65

5. Focus on and Benefits and debts

Regular readers will already appreciate this distinction. Clients firstly spend 4-5 weeks using the Food Bank. This is our strategy to alleviate basic food poverty. Most clients then move into the Community Shop. To gain access to the Shop clients must explain to us the reasons for their evident food poverty. They must collaborate with us in efforts to address these underlying causes. The most frequent causes are (a) unmanageable debt or (b) inability to access full benefit entitlement.

• Securing Benefits

Duncan has supported one customer in a successful PIP Tribunal, which resulted in a backpay award of £5,834.61. This award is worth around £11.5K over the full award period.

Duncan has a further ten client cases open under PIP support, ranging in scope from fresh claims (support filling in the form), to reviews, “mandatory reconsideration” (the legal stage before an appeal), to Tribunal.

Duncan has also supported a customer to successfully appeal his right to “Limited Capability For Work Related Activity”, meaning that a back dated pay award is due to that person, they will receive more money in their Universal Credit every month and they will no longer be subjected to tasks around seeking work – this is extremely helpful for someone who is not well enough to jump through Jobcentre hoops.

We hail Duncan for his effective work!

• Other benefits Work

In the last three months, we have supported clients to access Water Rates Support, Discretionary Housing Payments, Crisis and Resilience Fund, Council Tax Support and a Disability Bus Pass. We have also helped clients to challenge sanctions and debt recovery decisions on their Universal Credit accounts. We have helped access their Sheffield City Council online accounts to check rent and Council Tax Benefits,

report anti-social behaviour and to engage with other issues. This has been led by Katelyn with support from volunteers. We have recruited a new volunteer Deborah to start to take on some of this work.

- **Debt Work**

Volunteers, Ruth Abbey and Corynne Bailey have been undertaking debt work and are making great progress for their clients. Ruth is a senior caseworker and Corynne is a fine recently trained mentor.

They have completed cases for three clients in the last three months, totalling a debt write-off of £32,110.70. Ruth has a case close to completion to the value of £12,262.13. They have a further eight cases open, five of which are actively progressing and likely to yield results in the near future.

Sharon Jowitt, a regular face on our Food Bank desk in recent months, will shortly undertake Money Mentor training to become a debt mentor.

6. Update on Fundraising

We have, in the last month, received large food donations from **Football for Foodbanks** based in Springs Academy Community Hub, and **Frankie and Teddy's Wishes**.

I am keen to thank again the Sheffield-based **Freshgate Trust** and **Graves Trust** for donations to support the Community Shop.

We have been selected for support from the **Coop Local Community Fund**. Its funding year commences in November. If you are a Coop member, please visit the Coop website and select the S2 Food Poverty Network as your preferred beneficiary of this Fund.

7. Annual Plan

Developing this Plan, which addresses likely challenges of the next two years, has involved trustees, our three staff and key volunteers in a carefully structured process. I should thank the Planning Group of trustees: Margaret Booth, Jim Steinke Geraldine Roberts plus Katelyn. Margaret took on much of the record keeping and forward planning.

The Plan now suggests a sequence of development foci:-

- a. Do we have the right "title" to describe our geographic area?
- b. Is inclusion, in our title, of the word "poverty" helpful?
- c. Will our current accommodation limit future growth/development?
- d. Are there any aspects of our provision for clients which might be extended or improved?
- e. Are the quality and quantity of food provision the best?

- f. We have a (part-time, employed staff) team of three. Do they need additional support?
- g. How exactly should we maintain efforts for fund-raising?

8. Manor Community Food Kitchen

We received from **Sarah Short** an impressive report on the provision and uptake of meals provided in St Swithun's in September.

Sunday Breakfast: 48 meals this month , including 20 Foodbank users.

Wednesday Foodbank Café: 180 meals this month for meals, puddings, drinks, and takeaways (Foodbank + Community Shop).

Green Estate Community Meal (Monthly Tuesday): 30 attendees this month

Wednesday Community Meal: 120 eating in this month, plus up to 40 takeaways. Around 50 attendees also use the Foodbank.

Across September, Community Kitchen provided **480 meals** to families, older residents, vulnerable adults, refugees, and individuals experiencing food poverty or crisis.

The Manor Food Kitchen is independent of, but supported by, the S2 Food Poverty network. It uses any food that might be wasted by Food Bank or Shop. It receives £100 monthly towards its costs. Its volunteers receive sound training. The S2 residents who come to enjoy meals make friends and chat.

Thanks, Sarah to you and Community Kitchen volunteers.

JTRH, 16th October 2026