

S2 Food Poverty Network- Newsletter No 2, July 2023



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

I begin by repeating a plea made in the first newsletter:-

- If you are a standing order 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.

Our July meeting involved *Review of Finances*. We had set a deficit budget with the aim, steadily and incrementally, of reducing our healthy reserves. The new Community Food Shop is working very well. It is currently helping 42 clients. We plan to open on more days in the week, thus increasing our capacity. That will certainly, over time, reduce the reserves.

Given the health of our reserves, we considered possible expansion of our services. We are working on these further areas:-

- i. Identifying clients currently struggling with fuel bills, giving top-ups on their fuel payment cards,
- ii. Repeating, extending, and increasing value of fuel top-ups in winter (October-March) months,
- iii. Reviewing the food offers in both Food Bank and Food Shop with a view to increasing amounts, especially for families,
- iv. Seeking out unmet needs, by sending simple, brief informative letter on how to refer a needy person, to medical, educational and other locally based professionals and leaders,
- v. Considering lending our expertise and support to other, emergent, Food Banks in our immediate, or near, vicinity.

We discussed in greater detail the impact of our twin, current initiatives. These are:-

- the work of our newly trained debt mentors,
- the development of the Community Shop.

Four more volunteers are now being trained as debt mentors. Clients are now more swiftly released from Food Bank, after 8 weeks, as they switch to Food Shop; previously people would spend 12 weeks in Food Bank before moving to the Food Club.

Our meeting also focussed on key, indicative data. Numbers of clients in Food Bank were slightly lower in June than May. (This may reflect impact of the Holiday Food Voucher of £15.) Donations are 7.7 tons less this year compared to last year.

Here is one example of the data collected. It shows numbers fed in Food Bank (FB) and Food Club (FC) to the end of May 2023. In future we will be looking at capacity and numbers fed using our new model of 8 week in the Food Bank then longer access to Food Shop.

People fed							
Date	FB Households	FB Adults	FB Children	FC Households	FC Adults	FC Children	Total fed
11/01/2023	56	72	56	28	38	27	193
18/01/2023	56	66	62	36	50	41	219
25/01/2023	65	78	61	36	49	40	228
01/02/2023	66	76	60	36	50	42	228
08/02/2023	65	76	50	38	51	44	221
15/02/2023	58	69	39	35	46	32	186
22/02/2023	62	71	49	38	49	43	212
01/03/2023	67	78	52	38	50	44	224
08/03/2023	63	73	60	38	50	48	231
15/03/2023	66	77	56	39	51	48	232
22/03/2023	59	67	64	40	51	45	227
29/03/2023	57	65	53	35	43	38	199
04/04/2023	54	63	49	36	45	39	196
11/04/2023	66	77	57	30	40	37	211
18/04/2023	53	64	57	29	37	38	196
25/04/2023	45	53	46	30	40	38	177
03/05/2023	52	62	46	32	42	45	195
10/05/2023	59	68	50	32	41	40	199

17/05/2023	59	72	52	30	40	40	204
24/05/2023	49	54	47	30	37	35	173
31/05/2023	47	37	35	30	37	36	145
06/06/2023	36	43	34	22	27	21	125
13/06/2023	48	58	47	25	30	22	157
20/06/2023	39	40	46	30	40	32	158
27/06/2023	37	38	45	31	42	35	160
	1384	1597	1273	824	1076	950	4896

JTRH, 21st July 2023.