

## Numbers Matter—but remember

### It's all about people

At Gloucester Foodbank we never forget that we are helping individuals and families. But we have to report to various bodies on the numbers we have helped and how much we have spent etc. To give an idea we set out below some information for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 **So some highlights from the year.**

Numbers of food & toiletry packages delivered

17,037

Numbers of adults helped

10,766

Number of children under 16 helped

6271

Kg of food etc given to clients

137,867

Kg of food donated to the Foodbank

98,150

Kg of food purchased by the Foodbank

35,912

Money spent on purchasing food and toiletries—we were fortunate to receive financial support from the UK government. Support is unlikely to happen in the current financial year.

£88,922

*Gloucester Foodbank is a Christian based charity and part of the Trussell Trust network. Not every member of our team is a Christian; and we welcome and support people from all parts of the community of Gloucester. We are a registered charity: 1113515 and a Company Limited by Guarantee 054020666.*

# Why do people need help from our Foodbank

We know that with the right support and a stable and sufficient income, people don't need to turn to food banks for support. Hunger in the UK isn't about food. It's about a lack of income, leaving people without enough money to afford the essentials. This could be due to a range of reasons including:

- **Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy, and deductions)**
- **Challenging life experiences or ill health**
- **Lack of informal or formal support**

The Foodbank continues to work, with its partners, to address the underlying issues that cause food poverty. Until the time comes when we can end the need for food banks, we will be here to ensure that local people in hardship have the food & essentials they need.

Gloucester Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's national network, which reports that 1.5 million emergency food parcels were provided to people between April and September 2023 by food banks in the charity's UK-wide network. This is the most parcels that the network has ever distributed at this point in the year and represents a 16% increase from the same period in 2022.

Speaking about the rising need for emergency food and what can be done to support people facing hardship, **Emma Revie, Chief Executive at the Trussell Trust**, said:

"These statistics are extremely alarming. An increasing number of children are growing up in families facing hunger, forced to turn to food banks to survive. A generation is growing up believing that it's normal to see a food bank in every community. This is not right.

"Rising hunger and hardship have devastating consequences for individuals and our communities, damage the nation's health and hold back our economy. People in work, as well as people who cannot work, are increasingly being pushed into debt. That's why the UK Government must build on its work to protect people from increasingly severe hardship and commit to putting an Essentials Guarantee into legislation, to embed in our social security system the widely supported principle that, at a minimum **Universal Credit should protect people from going without essentials**".

## How Can you help people in need across Gloucester

1 We were fortunate to receive grants from the Government, trusts etc to help fund our services and especially buying food to meet the shortfall in donations in the last financial year. The Government scheme ended in March 2024. If you can help donate some extra items at supermarkets etc we would be very grateful. Tesco and Asda provide money to our Foodbank based on the amount of food collected in their stores. Morrisons, Sainsburys and Co-ops also have collection boxes for food etc.

2 We are facing a potential short fall in our finances over the next year.

We do have some reserves, but these will be depleted very quickly if we have to buy food regularly. Phil McLellan who helps with fundraising said "we are grateful for the support from individuals and churches especially. We have been weak in linking with local businesses, many

of whom have a charity of the year. If anyone has links with local businesses who might be able to help—please let us know. We are very happy to follow up and see how we can partner with these local businesses and groups".

3 If you would like to support us financially, please visit our website and then click on "Give Help" and then "Donate Money". This will give you the choice to either donate by bank transfer (see standing order form for details) or card (click the red donate box).

4 We have around 70 volunteers without whom we would not function. If you have some spare time and would like to help please call or email us.



**Phil McLellan and Assistant Manager  
Fiona Jarvis met the Mayor of  
Tewkesbury at an event in Churchdown**

### **Contact Details**

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