

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 30 MAY 2013  
title: CLITHEROE FOOD BANK  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee that a Food Bank will be operating in Clitheroe from July 2013.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
- Corporate Priorities – N/A
- Other Considerations – N/A

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Clitheroe Christian Partnership have been providing food parcels to all new arrivals at the hostel for over two years. During this time, they have seen a considerable increase in demand for emergency food supplies. The partnership are looking to establish the Clitheroe food bank as a charity and to follow the Trussel Trust Food Bank procedures. The leaflets at Appendix 1 set out how the food bank will operate in the borough. The housing needs service will be a referring organisation.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 There are steps in place to ensure families do not become reliant on the food parcels. Many organisations will be involved to ensure the households are signposted to the appropriate agencies for help and assistance.

## 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – No implications identified.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – May request some assistance in the future.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – No implications identified.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

**5 CONCLUSION**

5.1 That Committee note the information provided.

RACHAEL STOTT  
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 4567.

REF: RS/EL/30051305/H&H

## **BIGGEST EVER INCREASE IN UK FOODBANK USE: 170% RISE IN NUMBERS TURNING TO FOODBANKS IN LAST 12 MONTHS**

- Numbers given emergency food 100,000 higher than anticipated
- UK Foodbank charity The Trussell Trust says this must be a wake-up call to the nation

**Trussell Trust foodbanks have seen the biggest rise in numbers given emergency food since the charity began in 2000. Almost 350,000 people have received at least three days emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks during the last 12 months, nearly 100,000 more than anticipated and close to triple the number helped in 2011-12.**

Rising cost of living, static incomes, changes to benefits, underemployment and unemployment have meant increasing numbers of people in the UK have hit a crisis that forces them to go hungry. This dramatic rise in foodbank usage predates April's welfare reforms, which could see numbers increase further in 2013-14.

**346,992** people received a minimum of three days emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks in 2012-13, compared to **128,697 in 2011-12** and up from **26,000 in 2008-09**. Of those helped in 2012-13, 126,889 (36.6 percent) were children.

The Trussell Trust has seen a 76% increase in the number of foodbanks launched since April 2012 but has seen a 170% increase in numbers of people given emergency food. Well-established foodbanks that have been running for several years are showing significant rises in numbers helped during the last 12 months. Christian charity The Trussell Trust is launching three new foodbanks every week to help meet demand and has launched 345 UK foodbanks in partnership with churches and communities to date.

Trussell Trust Executive Chairman Chris Mould says:

*The sheer volume of people who are turning to foodbanks because they can't afford food is a wake-up call to the nation that we cannot ignore the hunger on our doorstep. Politicians across the political spectrum urgently need to recognise the real extent of UK food poverty and create fresh policies that better address its underlying causes. This is more important than ever as the impact of the biggest reforms to the welfare state since it began start to take effect. Since April 1<sup>st</sup> we have already seen increasing numbers of people in crisis being sent to foodbanks with nowhere else to go. '*

*'Last year The Trussell Trust estimated that our foodbanks would help 250,000 people in 2012-13,*

*we've helped 100,000 more than that. 2012-13 was much tougher for people than many anticipated. Incomes are being squeezed to breaking point. We're seeing people from all kinds of backgrounds turning to foodbanks: working people coming in on their lunch-breaks, mums who are going hungry to feed their children, people whose benefits have been delayed and people who are struggling to find enough work. It's shocking that people are going hungry in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain. '*

Only four per cent of people turned to foodbanks due to homelessness; 30% were referred due to benefit delay; 18% low income and 15% benefit changes (up from 11% in 2011-12). Other reasons included domestic violence, sickness, refused crisis loans, debt and unemployment. The majority of people turning to foodbanks were working age families.

Over 15,000 frontline care professionals such as doctors, social workers, schools liaison officers and Jobcentre Plus referred their clients to foodbanks in 2012-13. Foodbanks are community driven with an estimated 30,000 volunteers giving their time across the UK. Over 3,400 tonnes of food was donated by the public in 2012-13. Chris Mould adds: *'Whilst it's deeply concerning that so many people are facing hunger in the UK, the evident willingness of the public to help their neighbours through foodbanks has prevented thousands of crises escalating into disaster. We regularly hear people say that We foodbank saved my life' and it's local communities that make that possible. '*



## How a foodbank works

### **Food is donated**

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations.

Food is also collected at 'Supermarket Collections': These are events held at supermarkets where volunteers give shoppers a 'foodbank shopping list' and ask them to buy an extra item or two for local people in crisis.

### **Food is sorted and stored**

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need.

### **Frontline care professionals identify people in need**

Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals who are best placed to assess need and make sure that it is genuine.

### **Clients receive food**

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

Some foodbanks also run a rural delivery service, which takes emergency foodboxes to clients living in rural areas who cannot afford to get to a foodbank

*The Clitheroe Foodbank will be based at Trinity Church, Wesleyan Row, Clitheroe, opening from 8 July 2013 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11-1. 30.*

## **'Fighting poverty at its point of need'**

**Thank you for deciding to be one of our distributors, we are extremely pleased to welcome you to the team and look forward to working together.**

### PROVISION OF EMERGENCY FOOD BY VOUCHER

1. The **foodbank** gives food to families in crisis, either in Emergency Food Boxes (EFBs), or as bagged food from the **foodbank** Distribution Centre. The food includes cereals, milk, fruit juice, soup, pasta, meat, fish, pudding and vegetables, providing balanced and nutritional meals for 3 days. The **foodbank** Distribution centre stocks all the food items issued in an EFB as well as some additional items which are not practical to put in the standard 4 person boxes. Examples are household items, baby food, tin openers and extra treats or snacks.
2. As a registered **foodbank** distributor you will hold vouchers, which you will give direct to an individual or family in crisis. On receipt of a voucher the client will take it to The Distribution Centre. They will then exchange the voucher for a supply of food items (enough for 3 days), which they can then carry away in branded supermarket plastic carrier bags, thereby giving them a degree of anonymity.
3. When the client is given food they will be given a degree of choice - e.g. vegetarian. There will also be the option of giving extra food to larger families.
4. Vouchers will be issued to distributors against a unique reference number so we can track them back to the distributor and ensure vouchers are not duplicated. We will issue vouchers in sets of 10. When distributors require more vouchers they will need to contact the Trussell Trust office for replacements. Distributors are requested to keep vouchers securely stored, as the food represented on each voucher is currently valued at approx. £28. **There is no charge for the food**, but it is given on the understanding that it is not resold.
5. Food is donated by churches, individuals, groups or charities and by the public through collection days outside the major supermarkets. This is a project that involves the whole community!

### OPENING HOURS

6. **The foodbank Distribution Centre (address on the Red Voucher) is open from 11am until 1.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However, in an emergency you may contact us and we will issue food from the Warehouse.**

### EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES (EFBS)

7. By arrangement we are happy to allow distributors to hold EFBS, to allow access to food for those in rural areas or when food cannot be obtained in normal working hours. If you wish to hold some emergency EFBS please contact the office to discuss your requirement.
8. Would you kindly complete and return the enclosed pro forma listing all the people in your organisation authorised to issue Emergency Food Vouchers or EFBS. This will allow us to validate vouchers when presented.

### NUMBER OF EMERGENCY FOOD VOUCHERS/EFBS ISSUED PER CLIENT

The **foodbank** has been established to provide *short term, emergency food to an individual or family in crisis while a long-term strategy is developed*. Normally enough food for 3 days (one voucher) should be sufficient to cover the immediate crisis, while the normal support agencies arrange to meet the clients needs. In the event that this takes a little longer than up to 2 more ????