

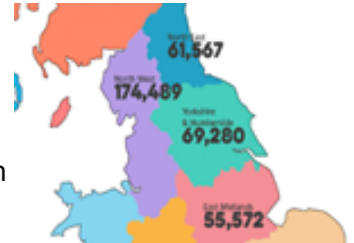
Wirral Foodbank providing Emergency food for local people in crisis

Issue 3— April 2017

Foodbank use continues to rise across the UK

Trussell Trust has announced that in 2016-17 the Foodbank Network provided 1,182,954 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis compared to 1,109,309 in 2015-16. Of this number, 436,938 went to children.

The North West shows the highest number of people accessing foodbanks, with three-day emergency food supplied to people in crisis.



Merseyside was the highest in the North West, with 61,324 emergency food supplies provided. Wirral Foodbank provided over 11,978 three-day emergency food supplies to local people in crisis. Of this number, 4,072 went to children. The top three reasons for foodbank referral were benefit delay 27%; low income 26% and benefit change 20%.

Wirral is currently part of the Universal Credit pilot. Universal Credit is the new single benefit payment, replacing income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Income Support. It is understood that the full service will be in place across the whole of the Wirral by November 2017. New claimants will have to wait a minimum of 6 weeks for their first payment; this delay could contribute to debt, rent arrears etc. The introduction, so close to Christmas, will have an adverse impact on many people. Wirral Foodbank is already planning for the full roll out of Universal Credit and the potential pressure this will inevitably have on the service we provide.

Further information available via our website.

<https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/2017/04/26/demand-for-foodbank-is-still-increasing/>

Thank you for your continued support. Richard Roberts, Manager, Wirral Foodbank

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Meet the Team

Richard Roberts (Manager), Liz Appleby (Office Team Leader) and Paul Stuart (Warehouse Team Leader),

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Stuart as Warehouse Team Leader. Paul will take up the role on the 15th May, and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Warehouse.

Hear from some of our volunteers.....



"I wanted to do my part and help out and having previously worked in various organisations which involved close contact with the public, working in a Food Distribution Centre seemed the right choice. I'm proud to be part of a team of dedicated and caring people who want to help those in food poverty using my experience of working with people out of the mainstream, enjoyment out of collecting from the public shopping in the supermarkets experiencing their generosity, and meeting with other Foodbank volunteers. Having said all that, I truly wish there wasn't a need for the Foodbank and that our social care system worked more efficiently and generously."

Carol Davies, Distribution Centre, Warehouse and Supermarket Volunteer



"What's life like working in the foodbank office? Well, it's a bit like being at the centre of a large web. Sandwiched between the In and Out sections of the foodbank warehouse we see on one side our donors bringing bags, boxes and sometimes even truckloads of food to be weighed in, and are amazed by the continuing and deep generosity of the people of Wirral. Then, on the other side, are the weekly orders being made up and delivered to the distribution centres. We talk to, and meet, the frontline agencies, who assess and give food vouchers to those in need, and to the volunteers working at the food distribution centres. So we learn about the many different ways people in Wirral find themselves in such desperate circumstances that they need help feeding their families, and how they are helped to find solutions to their problems."

Maggie Close, Warehouse Office and Supermarket Volunteer

Without our wonderful team of volunteers we could not operate. We have 297 people who give their time freely, volunteering in our Warehouse, Office, Distribution Centres, Supermarket collections and food collections.

Thank you to all.



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New Foodbank Distribution Centre

A new Foodbank Distribution Centre will open in New Ferry on Thursday 1st June. It will be located within the former Coop Store, on New 100 Chester Road, New Ferry.

The year so far:

Between January and March 2017 we have fed and supported 3,414, this included 1,160 children.

The top three reasons for foodbank referral were benefit delay 27%; low income 26% and benefit change 20%.

Future events:

Wirral Foodbank will be collecting food at:

Tesco, Heswall 23rd and 24th June 2017

Sainsbury's Upton 7th July 2017

Tesco, Bidston 21st and 22nd July

We will also be raising funds at the West Kirby Farmers' Market 22nd July 2017, serving bacon butties, coffee and tea – we look forward to seeing you!

Contact Details:

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