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Wirral Foodbank providing Emergency food for local people in crisis

Issue 6— June 2018

32% Increase in the number of people needing the Foodbank

In our January edition of NEWS-FEED, we expressed concern over the possible increase in Foodbank usage in 2018. Sadly, that possibility has now turned to reality. Between 1st January and 30th April 2018, Wirral Foodbank distributed 48,348 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis, a 32% increase on the same period last year, 14,535 of these went to children.

Emma Revie, Chief Executive of The Trussell Trust recently stated:

“It’s hard to break free from hunger if there isn’t enough money coming in to cover the rising cost of absolute essentials like food and housing. For too many people staying above water is a daily struggle. It is completely unacceptable that anyone is forced to turn to a foodbank as a result.

Trussell Trust, in their April 2018 review stated “that for the first time, new national data highlights the growing proportion of foodbank referrals due to benefit levels not covering the costs of essentials, driving the increase in foodbank use overall.” In addition, they reported that “analysis of foodbanks that have been in full UC rollout areas for a year or more shows that these projects experienced an average increase of 52% in the twelve months after the full rollout date in their area. Analysis of foodbanks either not in full UC areas, or only in full rollout areas for up to three months, showed an average increase of 13%.

An increase in demand requires more food. Wirral is the peninsula that keeps on giving. An amazing 35 tons of food was donated in the first quarter of this year, a 21% increase on the same period last year. There are many who give financially, through one-off donations or by regular giving. This enables us to purchase essential food items to meet the shortfall in food supplies.

The generosity of the people of Wirral never ceases to amaze me. On a daily basis, we receive food and financial donations.

We have 300 volunteers who give of their time, at the Warehouse, Office, Distribution Centres, Supermarket collections and many other supporting services. Our volunteers collect and sort the food, support those who attend our Distribution Centres, and administer the Foodbank.

Without all of this the Foodbank could not continue. Your continued support is more important than ever to meet the increase in demand. A copy of our latest shopping list is included. Please visit our website www.wirralfoodbank.org.uk for our latest food requirements.

Thank you for all your support. If you are able, please pray for the work.

Richard Roberts, Manager Wirral Foodbank.

June Shopping List

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Instant Mash
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Sponge Puddings
- Coffee
- Squash
- Washing Powder
- Shampoo

Please visit our website for a list of our latest food requirements
www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

We are more than food

The keynote speaker at the 2018 Trussell Trust Conference was Campbell Robb, CEO of Joseph Rowntree Foundation. A very inspirational presentation, which we hope to show at our Volunteer event in September (further details to follow). Campbell referred to Foodbanks as the “fourth emergency service.” Volunteers at our Distribution Centres are meeting individuals with a variety of needs; food is just a part of the support we provide. Clients find a warm and welcoming environment, somewhere to have a cup of tea and a chat.

One of our volunteers shared their experience at a Distribution Centre. At a recent session, one Client said that she had considered taking her own life, an experienced volunteer met with them, offering support and a place to talk. At the same time, another volunteer was supporting a Client who was going through a family crisis. Another Client was crying, one our volunteers sat with them for an hour, they received their food and in addition, they were offered a jar of jam as gift from the church hosting the Foodbank that included Christian message telling them that Jesus died for her and loves her. The Client accepted the gift and said that they thought nobody loved her. The Clients came for food but left with much more.

STOP PRESS



Asda had entered into a new partnership with Trussell Trust and FareShare to launch Fight Hunger Create Change. Asda Bromborough, Liscard and Woodchurch now have permanent collection points for food donations.

A "Marathon" for the Foodbank

Thank you to Tom Crowley who took part in the Rome Marathon and raised an incredible £1,295 for Wirral Foodbank.



Citizens Advice Wirral and Wirral Foodbank work together to tackle food poverty in Wirral

In March 2018, Wirral Foodbank and Citizens Advice launched Wirral Food Plus*. This tackles the underlying issues that people face who need the support of the Foodbank.

Citizens Advice Wirral has recruited a dedicated Foodbank Plus Caseworker, Nicola Connor, who is working across all of our 15 distribution centres, providing advice and support to Foodbank clients.

The Foodbank Plus project will help clients with various issues, including, delays or changes to benefit, debts, housing.

Of the Clients seen so far, 21% are experiencing difficulties with Universal Credit. Although this is based on only a sample of Clients, and not across all 15 Distribution Centres, it provides some evidence as to the increase in demand we are experiencing.

❖ *Wirral Foodbank funds Wirral Food Plus, through grant funding received from Charitable Foundations and individual donations received for the project.*

The story of one donor

Individuals donate the majority of our food, be it one tin or one hundred tins, every donation counts. Oliver is one our regular donors. To date he has donated over 700kg. Oliver uses supermarket vouchers to purchase food for the Foodbank. Thank you Oliver for your support.

Key statistics for Wirral Foodbank January - April 2018

Food Donated	34 Tons
Food Distributed	48 Tons

Why do people need the Foodbank?

Benefit changes/delays	48%
Debt	14%
Low Income	25%
Other	13%

We are grateful for the support of the following organisations



Contact Details:

Wirral Foodbank, Wirral Business Centre, Unit 14 Dock Road, Birkenhead, CH41 1JW Tel: 0151 638 7090

www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

email: enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk

Charitable incorporated organisation registered in England with charity number 1167967

Data Protection

Wirral Foodbank is committed to protecting your privacy and will process your personal data in accordance with current Data Protection legislation. Wirral Foodbank collects information to keep in touch with you and supply you with information relating to our work. A full data privacy statement for financial donors is available from the foodbank on request.

If you do not wish to receive further information from Wirral Foodbank, please email manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email.