

# NEWS-FEED

*Wirral Foodbank providing Emergency food for local people in crisis*

Issue 2— November 2016

## A Message from our Chair of Trustees

When talking to clients at the Foodbank recently, I have been embarrassed to realise that providing them with three days' emergency food supply was ignoring their main needs. Of course, knowing that you will be able to eat for the next few days is very important, but it was obvious that these people needed someone to advise them on how to apply for financial help, to speak on their behalf to officials, or to guide them on ways of reducing their debts. Like most Foodbank volunteers, I had neither the experience nor the training to give them these kinds of help, and unfortunately I also had very little idea of where to suggest they looked for the advice and support they needed.



What we call "sign-posting" has rightly become an increasingly important part of what we do as Foodbank volunteers, but whereas some volunteers have a good knowledge of where to point people to find the help they need, many of us do not. So the Trustees have now decided that we will concentrate on sign-posting to three organizations: Energy Project Plus, Citizens Advice Wirral and Involve Northwest.

Posters and leaflets giving the contact details for these organisations will soon be made available to all Distribution Centres. Even though the help we ourselves give is short-term and limited, we will also be able to point people in the right direction to get more long-term guidance and help in handling the difficulties they face. This will bring us closer to fulfilling our vision of ending hunger and poverty in our area.

Rev Colin Hart, Chairman of Trustees

### In This Issue

A Message from our Chair of Trustees

The year so far

The generosity of the People of Wirral

"Donate & Buy"

Asda Pricecheck

An Abundant Harvest

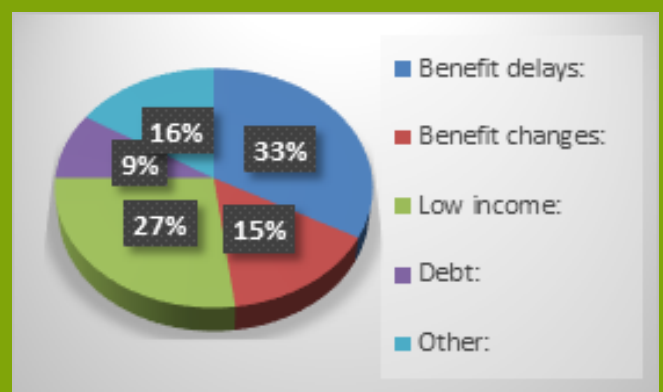
Looking forward to Christmas?



### The year so far:-

Between January and October 2016 Wirral Foodbank fed and supported 9,849 people, including 3,275 children. This is an increase of 18% on the same period last year.

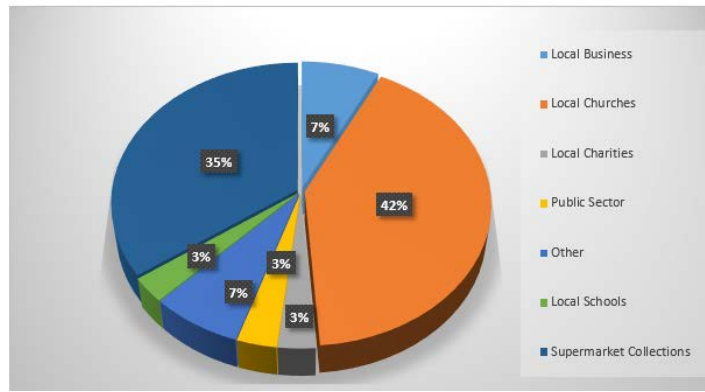
There are a variety of reasons why people use the foodbank, as detailed below.



## The generosity of the people of Wirral:

All of our food is donated by individuals, either by direct giving of food or indirectly. We receive monetary donations, which are used to cover the essential running costs of the Foodbank. Food is donated at various collection points, including local churches, supermarkets, local council offices, hospitals and GP surgeries. The table bellows shows the various collection channels and the percentage of food we receive through each.

We continue to receive over 1 ton of food per week - the generosity of the people of Wirral never ceases to amaze us. **Thank you for your continuing support**



### "Donate & Buy"

We have recently introduced this scheme with a number of local churches. A local church nominates a person within their congregation. Rather than collecting food, that person collects monetary donations from the church, they then contact the Foodbank to find out the items we are in particular need of. The representative then buys the items; some of our participating churches order them on-line and arrange delivery to the Warehouse. If you would like further information, please contact Richard Roberts at the Foodbank office.

## An Abundant Harvest

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to our Harvest Appeal. A total of 7 tons of food was donated.

Donations were received from many local schools and churches.



Pupils and Staff from Elleray Park School recently visited the Foodbank Warehouse

## Every bit helps!!

### ASDA PRICECHECK

If you shop at Asda, and don't already check your receipt against the online Asda Pricecheck, we would love to have your receipts! There needs to be more than 8 items on the receipt and it needs to be no more than 4 weeks old. If the shopping was not more than 10% cheaper than other supermarkets, you are able to download a voucher to spend in the store. Last week, we checked 4 receipts, and were able to claim back £4.40, which we used to purchase 12 bottles of squash for the warehouse. Thanks everyone!

### Tesco National Good Collection

The national Tesco food collection will take place at Bidston, Rock Ferry and Heswall stores on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December. Wirral Foodbank volunteers will be at each store on the 2nd and 3rd December.

## Are you looking forward to Christmas?

For many of us Christmas can be a stressful time, buying the Christmas Tree, deciding on what presents to buy, writing and posting the Christmas cards, who do we invite this year? etc. Before we know it Christmas has passed us by for another year.

As a Christian organisation we believe the message of Christmas is far greater and more important than this, it's about God coming into the world as a baby over 2,000 years ago. He was born in a stable and not in a palace, a place of poverty and not wealth. There was no Christmas Tree, no mince pies or even a Christmas Cake, in fact nothing we would recognise as belonging to our Christmas, except the one thing we all enjoy at this time of the year, a present. At the first Christmas God gave the most perfect and priceless gift this world has ever received, his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas to you all from Wirral Foodbank

## If you would like to help please contact

Wirral Foodbank  
Wirral Business Centre  
Unit 14, Dock Road  
Birkenhead  
CH41 1JW

web:- [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk)  
email:- [enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk)  
Tel:- 0151 638 7090  
Charity Reg:- 1145123