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Wirral Foodbank providing Emergency food for local people in crisis

Issue 7 - March 2019

A message from Revd Colin Hart, Chair of Wirral Foodbank

Without doubt the most significant thing that happened for Wirral Foodbank during 2018 was the appointment of Nicola Connor as a Benefits Adviser. She is actually employed by Citizens Advice Bureau, but the finance came through the Foodbank and she works exclusively in our Distribution Centres.

This appointment was made possible by a generous commitment from the students of St John Plessington School, who have made this project the focus of their charitable giving. This pledge encouraged some of our supporters to raise money for the project and the John Moores Foundation then kindly agreed to provide the remainder of the money required.

It may seem surprising that there is a need for Nicola's work. The Wirral Metropolitan Council already employs two Benefits Advisers and the Citizens Advice Bureau (part of Ask Us Wirral) employs more. They perform a valuable service for the kind of people who are confident and articulate enough to make an appointment and keep it. But many of the clients who come to the Foodbank for help have intellectual disabilities or mental health problems which prevent them from accessing help in this way. What these people need is someone who is available on the spot and has a down to earth, approachable manner (in addition, of course, to specialized knowledge and skills), and that is the service which Nicola provides.

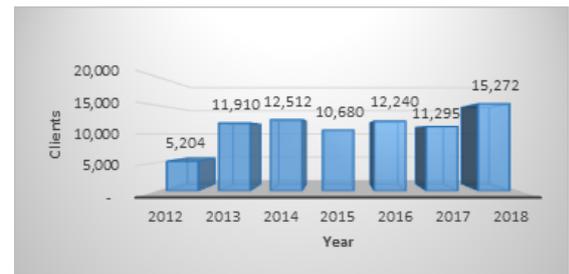
Since taking up her appointment, Nicola has seen and helped a large number of people. I have personally seen the change in people's demeanour after she has helped them to find a way forward out of problems which they had thought were insoluble. The size of the demand suggests that ideally we would employ someone else alongside Nicola, to do the same work in other Distribution Centres, but we are not currently in a position to consider doing that.

The Trustees are grateful to all those whose generous giving has enabled us to extend our work in this way.

Rev Colin Hart, Chair of Trustees

Look back on 2018

2018 was our busiest year, supporting 15,278 people, a 35% increase on 2017. This increase has been experienced across the UK by other Trussell Trust foodbanks. It is difficult to attribute one factor for this. There is a variety of reasons, including changes and delays in benefit payments, low income and debt. The Trussell Trust has been monitoring the roll-out of Universal Credit, the largest welfare reform in a generation. They have stated, "Universal Credit is not the only benefit people at food banks are experiencing issues with, but it is a significant factor in many areas."



Look back on 2018

Benefit changes/delays
48%

Debt
13%

Low Income
26%

Other
13%

Did you know?

£10 will feed a single person for three days.



£29 will feed a family of two adults and two children for three days.



What does 2019 hold for us?

January has always been a relatively quiet month, allowing us time to tidy up the Warehouse, prepare for the year ahead etc. This year was the exception. In January there was a 51% increase in the number of people coming to the Foodbank, compared to the same period last year. The reason for this significant increase is unclear; this has been the experience across the majority of Trussell Trust foodbanks. February and March are still higher than 2018 figures. Year to date there is an increase of 23% on the same period last year.

We never take for granted the generous gift of time donated by our volunteers, and of those who donate food and financial support. Without this we could not continue. Thank you. The Trustees and Management Team are monitoring the situation, to ensure that we have the resources available to support those who need our services, and for our volunteers who deliver the services.

A message to Wirral Foodbank from Emma Revie, CEO of Trussell Trust



Emma Revie sent a personal video message to Wirral Foodbank; this was shown at our recent AGM. You can access the video via our website: <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/2019/03/06/message-from-emma-revie-for-wirral-foodbank-agm/>

Thank you for your continued support

Shopping List

- * Cereal
- * Sugar (sml if poss)
- * Squash/Juice
- * UHT Milk
- * Tinned Spaghetti
- * Sponge Pudding
- * Instant Mash
- * Tinned Tomatoes
- * Washing up Liquid
- * Shower Gel

Food can be donated at the following locations:

Sainsbury's, Upton
Sainsbury's, Greasby
Co-op stores
Asda, Arrowe Park
Asda, Liscard
Asda, Bromborough
Tesco, Bidston
Tesco, Heswall
Tesco, Rock Ferry
Most Libraries

Next Supermarket Collections

Tesco Bidston
Friday 17th and
Saturday 18th May

Tesco Heswall
Friday 16th and
Saturday 17th August

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.