



Another Foodbank year draws to a close - but the need goes on

Not so much a lull as a little stability, after the hectic period in the run up to Christmas and which, in the warehouse, created a backlog which took us until the end of January to clear. Client numbers too stabilised and overall for the year we ended up much on a par with the previous year both for donations of food and clients fed. What needs to be remembered however is that this was the first full year of our Food Pantry operation and, in addition to the numbers presented in the charts, some 40 families are fed each and every week through the Pantry – many of whom would likely have been clients of our distribution centres had the Pantry not existed. So overall the picture of a stabilised need is not as rosy as might appear at first glance.

Other areas of our operation, Welfare Benefits and Money Advice, continue to have a demand for their services which exceeds our capacity to satisfy. Following receipt of a grant for this purpose, an exercise was launched to recruit a part-time CEO. This appears to have been successful and an announcement is expected shortly, when the necessary reference etc checks have been made.

In the next few weeks we'll produce a short Annual Report which will be circulated to recipients of this newsletter.

This is in all probability the last newsletter I shall edit, as I am retiring from the Foodbank at Easter after five and a half years. As I write, no-one has come forward to take over the role so, as with Brexit, its future is uncertain!

Highlights

- New roof fitted to the warehouse to make it watertight at a cost of £1900
- A Gala dinner at the Ramada Hotel, Southport organised by Southport Feenix to support our Foodbank raised over £1000.
- After April 23rd Grace Baptist will NOT be a distribution centre but will continue to host the Pantry. Southport Community Centre will open from 3pm – 5pm on Tuesdays from 30th April but will not be open on Wednesdays after April 24th.
- The Welfare Benefit team is continuing to grow and now has 6 advisors available to support the Distribution Centres.

Job vacancies

In addition to editing our newsletter, we also have a vacancy for someone to promote our social media presence through the website, Facebook and Twitter.

We say goodbye and thank you to Gillo Ballybay who has done so much to give us an effective presence on Twitter and good professional advice on improving the website and Facebook pages.

Startling facts

In 2018, Trussell Trust research showed a 52% average increase in food bank use in areas that have had Universal Credit for at least 12 months compared to 13% in areas that have not.

The view from the front line

A letter from a local social worker received after publication of the last newsletter.

"As always your organisation is a fantastic support for professionals like myself and the foodbank makes a fantastic contribution to the work that the local authority mental health services etc has to complete in the local area to support the most vulnerable people locally.

Your feed back is invaluable because it helps services to understand the difficulties represented in your reports regarding the reasons people need to access the food bank services. It's a very concerning picture when almost half of distributions are given as a result of benefit changes and delays since the roll out of universal credit. It clearly demonstrates the hardship that people are facing locally and the invaluable work of the Food bank in bolstering local services whilst those services also continue to absorb the impact of government cut backs.

Many many thanks to all your volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year."

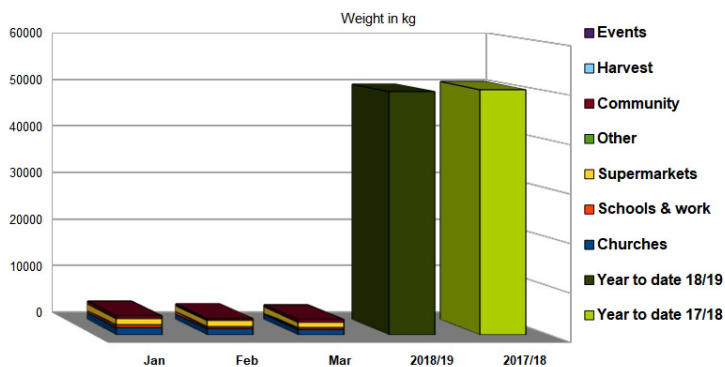
Shopping list



Other brands are available!

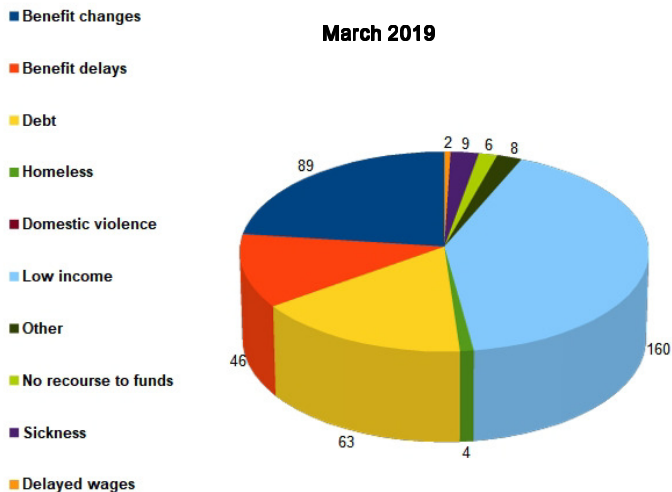
Sources of donated food

2018/19 kilograms



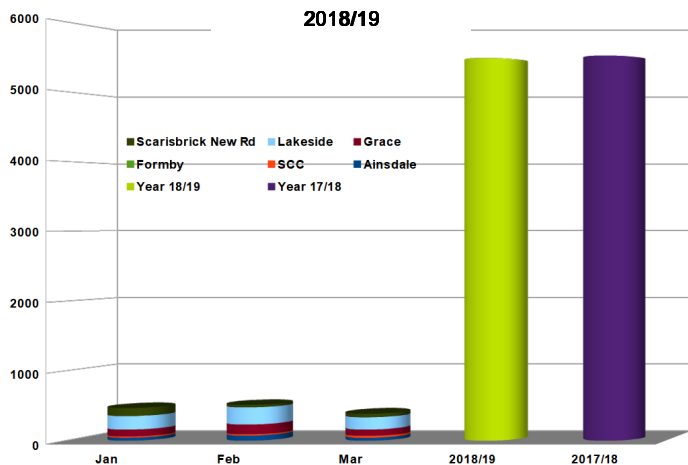
Reasons for voucher issue

March 2019



People fed - by Distribution centre

2018/19



Year 2018/19 - Adults fed 3321 : Children 2159

Taxi!

For the sake of future generations, we are trying to do our bit to reduce plastic usage. We distribute food to our clients either in their own bags or re-use those in which donations have been made.

This can sometimes result in us being short of carriers and so we are immensely grateful to our good friends at Delta Taxis who regularly give us a supply of really strong and eco-friendly hessian bags which our clients can reuse themselves.

Their latest delivery arrived and were in use within 24 hours as we packed food for clients. Our thanks to Delta – they deserve the support of all of us!



To celebrate...

To celebrate his retirement, the Lakeside Monday 'crew' invited Alan Toms and his wife Jean to be their guests at Villagio Cucina in Birkdale Village. It was a great evening and as appreciated as it was unexpected - thanks guys!



Newsletter

If you do not wish to receive further newsletters from Southport Foodbank, please email actomox@gmail.com with the word 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line and your full name in the body of the email and we will delete you from our list.

Contributions, are always welcomed.

A Newsletter Editor is a desperate need.

