



Annual Report

April 2017
to
March 2018

Bath Foodbank enables local people to help their neighbours at a time of crisis.



We would like to thank all who have given so generously by donating food, giving financial help or committing time so that people in the city of Bath do not have to go hungry.

Chairman's Report 2017-18

2017-18 has seen an unprecedented rise in the use of the Foodbank with 4103 people being given a food parcel of 3 meals per day. This was an increase of 36% over 2016-17 and the commonest reasons given were delays or changes to benefits. Bath was one of the earlier areas to experience the roll out of Universal Credit and it is likely that this has been a significant factor in the increased demand that we have experienced but it is probable that other factors have also been at play nationally, with inflation exceeding wage increases, thus forcing more people into food poverty.

Despite the large increase described above, I am pleased to say that due to the generosity of local people and organisations, and the hard work of our many volunteers, we have been able to meet the need.

During the school summer vacation in 2017, recognising the difficulties some families face in providing food for their families, we entered into a pilot project with 6 local primary schools. Families eligible for free school meals during term time, were invited to receive a weekly food parcel, from the Foodbank for each of the 6 weeks of the school holiday – each parcel contained food for a main meal for 5 days. This project was well received by the schools participating, and by those families (about 12% of those given the appropriate voucher) that took advantage of the scheme. It was evident that families benefitting were able to spend the money saved on other essential items, such as school shoes, an expenditure which might not otherwise have been possible. The project is being repeated in 2018, with all primary schools in Bath being invited to take part.

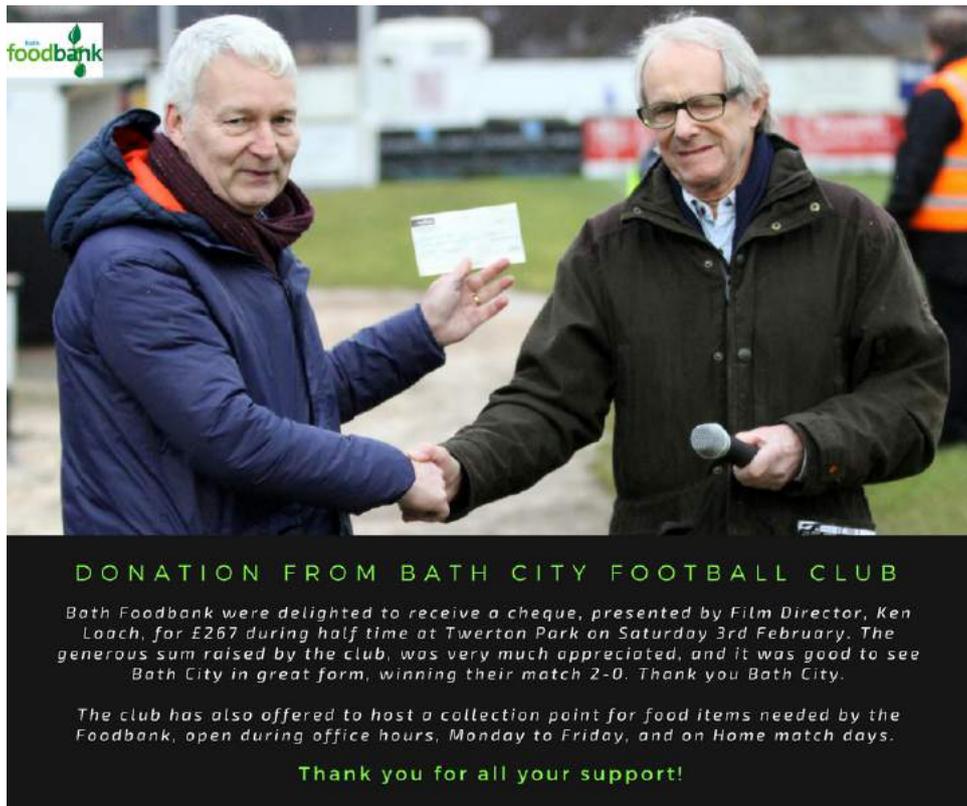
During the year, we had a visit from the Trussell Trust to carry out a Quality Assurance Visit. This passed successfully and highlighted the need to focus on risk assessments and fire risk assessments at the warehouse and distribution centres. We have been implementing the recommendations.

We were once again well supported by schools and churches at harvest time and by businesses and individuals in the run up to Christmas. Many churches and local charitable trusts also support us with food collections and financial help throughout the year. Bath Abbey invited us to take part in the Great Bath Bake Sale. One local school, Kingswood School, continues to support us throughout the year with regular collections – we are very grateful for their support.

This year, for the first time, we applied for and were awarded the opportunity of running the 'Charity Stall' for a day during the Bath Christmas Market. This was a great opportunity for us to talk to people (from far and wide!) about the Bath Foodbank and to raise money (£626) by selling various items, to help with the running costs of the Foodbank (currently about £15,000 per year).

Supermarket collection days at Morrisons and Sainsbury's were successful in allowing us to request and receive the items that we were especially short of. We are very grateful to the supermarkets and their staff for facilitating these days, which also allow members of the public to talk to us about the Foodbank. We are also supported by a number of smaller supermarkets – notably Co-ops and Sainsbury Locals who, along with the larger supermarkets, host permanent collection points. Although we did not hold a collection at Waitrose during the period covered by this report, one is planned for the near future.

We are also grateful to a number of businesses that have supported us during the year – these have included Nationwide, Mark Naylor Estate Agent, Bath City Football Club, Yeo Valley Farm, Epoch Wealth Management, Lovehoney and Jolly’s – by hosting a food collection point, or by arranging a one-off food collection or by raising funds.



In addition to food donations and collections, we have been supported by fund-raising activities – especial thanks are due to the Bath Community Big Band, who for a second year held a concert in aid of the Bath Foodbank.



The Foodbank van was coming to the end of its life during this year, and we were once again helped by the generosity of Wessex Water who were able to give us a van that was no longer needed by their company. We are very grateful to them for their support.

Following the election of Wera Hobhouse as the Member of Parliament for Bath in 2017, she accepted an invitation to visit the Bath Foodbank and we are grateful for her interest and support.

In summary, it is clear that the Bath Foodbank receives enormous support from all areas of our community and we are so very grateful. The Foodbank continues to operate entirely through the large number of volunteers that generously give of their time. We have been operating for over 6 years now, and inevitably some of those volunteers who were involved with the Bath Foodbank since it started have for a variety of reasons had to reduce their involvement or retire from volunteering with the Foodbank. Currently, therefore, we have a significant number of vacancies needing to be filled, at all levels of the organisation.

The management committee has seen some changes through the year. Paul Solly now has a different role within Genesis and so Nick Mayo, CEO of Genesis Trust Bath is now the Genesis representative on the committee. John Neill, who has been the supermarket co-ordinator has moved abroad and has therefore relinquished his role. We are very grateful to him for all the work that he put into building good relationships with the management of local supermarkets – he will be hard to replace. Jane Middleton has joined the committee as Business Co-ordinator. Nick Beach, who has been Churches Co-ordinator has also relinquished his role and we are grateful to him for the links that he established with local churches – this is another role currently still to be filled

Tim Harris
Chair of Bath Foodbank Management Committee

Foodbank statistics 2017-18?

- 47,100 tons of food were donated to the Bath Foodbank
- 4,103 People in Bath were given food for 3 meals for 3 days. Of these, 1323 were children, many under 11 years of age, and 65 adults over the age of 65.
- over 100 volunteers help on a regular basis to ensure that food is collected, stored and distributed to those in need in the city.
- over 100 agencies have vouchers to give to people who are experiencing a crisis and need help with food.

Age group	Number of people
Children 0 to 4 years	452
Children 5 to 11 years	482
Children 12 to 16 years	270
Children age not recorded	119
Adults 17 to 24 years	343
Adults 25 to 64 years	2266

Adults 65 years and over	65
Adults age not recorded	106
Total	4103

2979 of the people who came to Foodbank described their ethnicity as White. Other groups were recorded as Asian (15), Black (87), Mixed (188), Other (47) and 787 people chose not to disclose their ethnic group.

The following table shows the area of residence of Foodbank clients. All wards were represented but the table shows the more numerically significant ones. Some people came from the outlying villages of Bath but not in large numbers.

The distribution centres for people to collect food are in some of the places of highest need – the city centre, Twerton and Southdown.

Wards of Bath	Number of people
Abbey	306
Bathavon North	37
Bathwick	24
Combe Down	313
Kingsmead	210
Lambridge	81
Lansdown	112
Lyncombe	53
Newbridge	102
Odd Down	233
Oldfield	222
Southdown	242
Twerton	759
Walcot	142
Westmoreland	203
Weston	171
Widcombe	111
No Fixed Abode	248

Reasons why people use the Foodbank?

The major reasons given were low income and benefit delays. In some cases we have supported people who have not received benefits for many weeks.

Crisis Type	People affected
Benefit change	661

Benefit delays	918
Debt	449
Delayed wages	55
Domestic violence	70
Homelessness	118
Low income	1273
No resource to public funds	54
Sickness	95
Other	410
Total	4103

Distributing the food to those in need

Everyone who comes to the foodbank is referred from one of the agencies in Bath that hold our vouchers. Bath Foodbank vouchers are given out by these agencies to people who are in need: situations leading to such need have been listed in the table above.

As a guideline, an individual can be given up to 3 vouchers in a 6-month period depending on their circumstances. In extreme cases more assistance can be given through consultation with the Foodbank team.

On receipt of a voucher the individual can then take it to one of our three Foodbank centres in Bath where they will be greeted by our volunteers, offered a hot drink and a chat if they wish, and signposted to other services if they require additional help.

The food is put together based on the number of people in the family and taking in to account any special dietary needs where possible. We also provide toiletries and household items, when supplies permit. At Easter we provide Easter Eggs and at Christmas we provide festive treats and small gifts for children.

Our aim is to make the foodbank centres informal and friendly places, where people feel welcome.

We would like to thank Manvers Street Baptist Church, Rose Cottage and St Barnabas Church for all the support they give: allowing us use of their premises and providing a warm welcoming place for both the people who use our services and our volunteers.

Food for families during school summer holidays

This was set up as a pilot project to assist families (whose children received free school meals) with food during the summer holidays. The schools involved distributed letters to the families about the scheme.

6 schools were involved in the pilot. The families taking advantage of the scheme were not those that would otherwise use the Foodbank. Most of the families came weekly for the 6 weeks of the school summer holiday and we estimated that about 12% of the eligible families used the scheme. As noted above, this initiative was well received.

The number of food parcels distributed for the summer project was as follows -

Rose Cottage	145 parcels (439 children)
Manvers Street	52 parcels (121 children)
Total	197 parcels (560 children)

Bath Foodbank Van

Throughout the year the Bath Foodbank van collections and deliveries have continued to be scheduled every week, including revised schedules to cover Bank Holidays. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the van has collected food that has been donated by the public from various locations including supermarkets, churches and schools within the Bath area. The van is loaded with food at the depot in Batheaston on a Wednesday and on a Thursday the food is delivered to the Distribution Centres at Manvers Street, Rose Cottage, and St Barnabas Church, and to Lifeline, located on York Street.

Bath Foodbank continues to be well supported by volunteers who are prepared to drive the van and/or act as assistants on the van loading and unloading food. Ideally, the van is crewed by three volunteers with, a minimum of two approved drivers and one assistant. On a few occasions, there has only been one driver available.

There have been no serious incidents reported or injuries to volunteers. However, there have been a small number of very low speed minor scrapes to the van body, usually involving bollards and very tight corners.

During the last twelve months Wessex Water has kindly replaced the van, that they gave to the Foodbank several years ago, with a similar van which whilst being of approximately the same age as the last one has the benefit of a much lower mileage at just 46,000 miles - the old van had exceeded 100,000 miles. This will ensure that the Foodbank can function effectively for the foreseeable future.

Collin Carr
Bath Foodbank Van Co-ordinator



Bath Foodbank Warehouse

Since 2014 the Bath Foodbank Warehouse has been located in Batheaston operating out of 4 shipping containers in an open barn. In 2017 the warehouse tenancy was renewed for another 3 years until August 2020. After this, it is likely that a new site will have to be found because the current tenancy is unlikely to be renewed by our landlords.

The warehouse is the main holding facility for all stocks of food and non-food items. Food donations are collected weekly by the Foodbank van from Foodbank bins located around the city at local supermarkets and at Harvest Festival time from local churches and schools. Similarly the van makes weekly deliveries of food from the warehouse to the Foodbank Distribution Centres located around the city. We received generous Harvest Festival donations during October 2017, with a lot of much-needed stock coming in over a short period of time: it took until January for it all to be sorted!

Throughout the reporting year the warehouse has been open 4 mornings every week with the exception of the period between Christmas and the New Year. There has been the usual turnover of volunteers leaving and joining the warehouse, a typical week having on average 30 active volunteers either on warehouse or van duties. Foodbank is always looking for new warehouse volunteers.

Last year it was identified there should be better coverage for the key warehouse posts so two new Deputy Warehouse Managers were appointed to the Tuesday and Thursday morning shifts and a new Shift Manager was appointed to the Wednesday morning shift. These appointments have worked extremely well.

Risk Assessments have been completed for the warehouse and by the publication of this report will have been signed off.

Food donations from churches, schools, Saturday supermarket collections and the general public have shown a marked increase during the year amounting to:

47,100 kgs (2017: 34,792kgs).

Similarly, stock supplied to the Foodbank Distribution Centres increased to **40,881 kgs** (2017: 31,809 kgs amended).

Stock at the year end stood at **10.769 kgs** (2017: 9,280 kgs).

Pete Cottell
Bath Foodbank Warehouse Manager

Working with local Businesses

The role of Business Coordinator is new to the Foodbank committee, and is designed to raise the profile of the Bath Foodbank with local businesses and to invite donations towards its running costs. I took up the post in October 2017 and have made contact with businesses such as Rotork, Buro Happold and Thring Townsend. Many of them stress that they are receiving an increased number of approaches from charities, meaning that we face a lot of competition for support. Nevertheless, we have had a generous donation from Epoch Wealth Management, and the Green Bird Café recently made us its charity of the month.

Wessex Water has kindly nominated Bath Foodbank for the 'Per Cent Club' – a charitable organisation that hosts quarterly networking events to which charity speakers are invited. We are now on the list of future speakers.

During the year we received a generous donation from the Medlock Trust. A meeting has been held with the St John's Foundation, which offers funding to local charitable projects.

Jane Middleton

Social media

Foodbank has greatly increased the use of social media – both Facebook and Twitter to promote supermarket collections and to send out requests for needed food items.. Thanks are due to Natalie Cottell for her assistance with this important area of communication.

Plans for 2018 to 2019

1. To ensure that we collect sufficient food to meet the needs of those coming to the Bath Foodbank.
2. To develop promotion of the Bath Foodbank through the local media and social media sites.
3. To assist families (with a free school meal entitlement) with food in the long school holidays.
4. To consider options for the warehouse site.
5. To evaluate the service by sending feedback questionnaires to the agencies.
6. To recruit new volunteers to the Management Committee to take lead role
 - In the Warehouse
 - Planning and organising supermarket collections
 - As Foodbank Co-ordinator with the Churches in Bath

Conclusion

We have been well supported by local people, churches, schools and businesses in Bath, and this has enabled the Bath Foodbank to offer food to individuals and families at times of crisis.

We are grateful to our many volunteers and to those who support us financially and with food donations. Thank you.

As an established and well-supported Foodbank, we look forward to continuing to assist people in need with food.



We are currently looking for new volunteers to assist with Bath Foodbank. If you can help in anyway then please get in contact.

This could be a few hours every 2 months to help with a supermarket collection, to assisting at the warehouse or distribution centres for a few hours each week. We are also looking for people to help with the running of the Foodbank.

Contact details for Bath Foodbank c/o Genesis Trust Bath
The Old School House
South Parade
Bath BA2 4AF

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For more information see www.bath.foodbank.org.uk

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Bath Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust and operates under the Genesis Trust Bath

