



Rutland
foodbank

Annual General Meeting

Monday 12 June 2017
5:00pm

All Saints Church Hall
Oakham



Chairman's Report

Suzanne Johnson

April 2016 to March 2017 has demonstrated once again how much we rely on the individual and personal commitment of so many wonderful volunteers.

We were sorry to see Rev Dr Dominic Coad leave us in October, but delighted that he was appointed vicar at a church in Newcastle where the local Foodbank is a main focus of the church's ministry. We are very grateful for all that he brought to Rutland Foodbank, for his compassion and commitment to the clients, and his clear and strategic thinking on Steering Group. He will be very much missed in Rutland, not just at Foodbank.

Our annual audit by the Trussell Trust went extremely well; we were again commended for having an efficiently-run Foodbank with helpful, friendly and informed volunteers. All our statutory requirements are in place, but the main commendation is in the wonderful welcome and service our clients receive. The Trustees continue to believe it is important to belong to the Trussell Trust, not just to receive their support and national collection campaigns, but also to add weight to their political lobbying and national statistics. With funds in the bank, and

no significant overheads, the Trustees took the decision to ask Dan Gill if he would like to relinquish his monthly financial support. He initially committed to paying our rent in May 2014 for a year, to get us on our feet, and continued to support us for a further year. We cannot express our gratitude for the opportunity his support gave us, to have our own dedicated premises. Rutland Foodbank in its current form, and in particular the Oakham premises, could not possibly have happened without his support.

This has been a great year of consolidation of our offer and services, and of volunteers picking up greater responsibilities. It was with confidence in the ongoing viability of the Foodbank that I personally took the decision at Christmas 2016 to seek to pass on my role as Chair. This was largely for personal reasons, and to spend more time with my young family. In February I was delighted to be introduced to David Clark, who quickly showed an interest (not to mention a huge amount of

competence and a lovely, kind manner) in taking over. The trustees took him through a slightly formal interview process to ensure we were meeting our legal obligations as trustees of a charity, and we were so, so pleased that he agreed to take over the reins from 1 April.

Although I am stepping back as Chair, I will continue as a trustee of this wonderful charity. I cannot begin to express my thanks to everyone involved with Foodbank along the way, since we started talking about it in January 2013, and opened 23 September 2013. I have got so much out of my time at Foodbank, made many friends along the way, and found it really rewarding to serve the community in this way. Whilst the vision is always to close through lack of need, as long as people in Rutland are going without food, I am confident that it is in extremely compassionate and competent hands. I am very proud of all we have achieved together, with God's help.

Incoming Chairman's Report

David Clark

Firstly, on behalf of my fellow Trustees and everyone involved in the organisation I want to thank Suzanne for all her efforts as Chair over these past 3.5 years.

From inception and through initial set backs, Suzanne led the way to create Rutland Foodbank: generating support from our local churches, finding volunteers and then with the help of the Trussell Trust establishing all the many processes that make Foodbank tick in the very smooth way that it does today. Thank you Suzanne! And on a personal note, thank you for the helpful introduction you provided me.

I really appreciate the welcome I have received from Foodbank volunteers. Although I worked in industry and commerce for 42

years, taking on this role within a voluntary organisation is something entirely new and different for me. I've a lot to learn. It's a privilege to be involved.

As far as next year is concerned I want to pass on comments made by the CEO of Trussell Trust at the recent National Foodbank Conference: "Sadly I fear things are going to get worse rather than better". The back drop is well known. The fall in the value of the pound (its 16% devaluation compared to other currencies) has pushed up imported food prices and it's unlikely the major supermarkets,

with margins now squeezed paper thin, will be able to continue to resist the pressure to pass on higher prices to the consumer. Higher food prices effectively raise the poverty line with one inevitable result: more people falling into food crisis situations. Add to that the ongoing programme of welfare reforms, "The alarm bells are ringing". The work of our Foodbank volunteers, the support of our care providing partners and the goodwill of Foodbank donors will be as important in 17/18 as they have ever been before.

Special Events

Harvest Festivals

We were once again grateful to receive a large quantity of "harvest" donations, which were sorted by our dedicated team in Langham. A total of 1.5 tonnes

of food was donated over this period, of which 1.1 tonnes was from our local schools. It is always a blessing to receive unsolicited donations from a va-

riety of schools and churches at this time of the year, despite the sorting and stock control challenges it can bring!

Christmas Hampers

Heading towards Christmas, we again decided to produce hampers of

Christmas treats for people in crisis across Rutland, to be distributed through our

various agencies. These were sponsored largely by individual donations of

£15, and with some funds left over from the hamper collection last year, we did not overtly push for donations and were delighted to fully cover our costs, and produced 180 hampers.

Once again, huge thanks to D'reen Foulkes who organised a coffee morning at Oakham Baptist Church to raise money to put a game in each family hamper. The morning was well

attended, and a good amount of funds collected. D'reen was able to provide around 60 games, wrap them, label them and get them to Foodbank before she jetted off to Australia to spend Christmas with her family. Thank you, D'reen, for this amazing commitment.

Following last year's Christmas cracker appeal, led by Andy Wright, Hous-

ing Services Manager at Spire Homes, we decided to run it again, but widened it to receive donations from a number of sources, notably a huge number received on hamper packing day from Lands End. This was organised by Nicola Twose, who has been a stalwart supporter of Foodbank. The clients were delighted to receive at least 6 crackers in their hampers.

Warehouse Team

We are very grateful for the hard work and commitment of the warehouse team, led by Hilary Smith, who do hard physical work, often with very little thanks.

Hilary has built a team of 4 or 5 volunteers, a couple of whom help to drive the stock around Rutland. We remain extremely grateful to Jane Duce for the kind

donation of the premises, which greatly enables us to carry out our work without a large rent liability.

Working with Agencies

We have continued to develop our working relationships with local agencies; in particular, we have been delighted to welcome Sheila Fletcher from Citizens Advice Rutland to sit in on foodbank sessions in Oakham on a regular basis. We have also welcomed Community Agents to our sessions, at both Oakham and Uppingham.

A huge "thank you" to Helen Baggott for organising a comprehensive training day for existing and prospective volunteers, which was well attended and much appreciated by all. We were delighted that Andrew Featherstone of the Rutland Community Agents came and spoke to volunteers about their work, and expressed his

gratitude to the Foodbank for the service we provide.

The team at Uppingham continue to be very committed, and have great relationships with their clients, some of whom visit for a cup of tea on a regular basis, even if they don't have a voucher. They have also made excellent progress in partnering with

various agencies in the area, and frequently get visits from the Community Agents, Citizens Advice, etc. The numbers at Uppingham continue to be low but steady, and the whole team there feel they are providing a valuable service in Uppingham, and their dedication is very much appreciated.

Financial Report April 2016 – March 2017

Caroline McCabe, Treasurer

Rutland Foodbank has been running for about 3 years now and there is a definite pattern to the costs needed to allow it to keep running.

It costs approximately £7,500 to run for 1 year. In 2016/17 year our total expenditure was £7,360 (excluding Christmas Hampers).

£4,848 was spent on premises. This covers rent, utilities and repairs. Our administrative costs include insurance, Trussell Trust membership as well as stationery and running the Foodbank mobile phone. Whilst the majority of our food is donated there are occasions when

we need to purchase additional items that are not regularly given but are included in each food parcel.

Of our total expenditure, £3,147 was to buy items for the Christmas Hamper project. This income is treated as restricted funds and we aim to spend the amount raised from hamper sponsorship money.

Based on Trussell Trust guidance of £1.68 per kg, £10,779 of food was donated in 2016/17 (approx. 7.3tonnes). Due to running

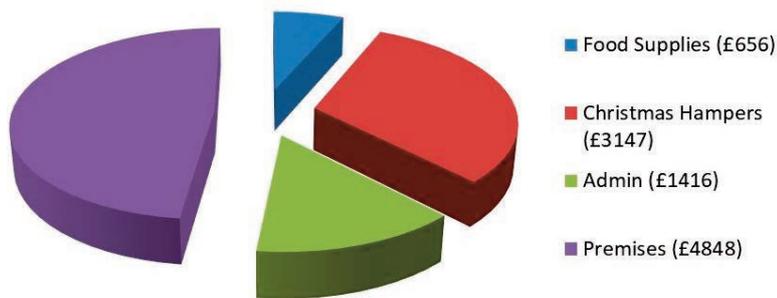
cash accounting principles (i.e. simply recording cash received and cash spent in the year), this figure is not included in our formal accounts.

Our income fell this year for several reasons;

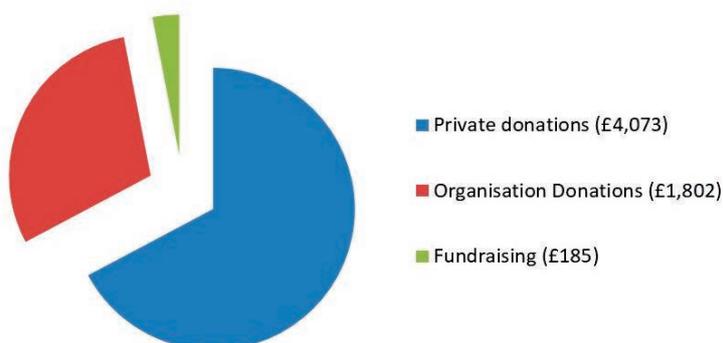
- We received a grant to help finance the premises running costs in the 2015/16 year of £1575. The balance carried forward from last year funded the ongoing running costs through the year.
- We held a balance of some hamper donations from last year that helped to finance this year's hampers. As such, we consciously made less effort to promote sponsorship for the project.
- As general reserves were at a level we were comfortable with, the trustees felt we no longer needed the very generous support of Mr Dan Gill. He stopped his financial support after July 2016.

Reserves at the end of the year stand at £8,621 in general funds. £2,000 of this has been provided to pay for known accrued costs.

Expenditure April 2016 - March 2017



Income April 2016 - March 2017



Voucher Holders Report

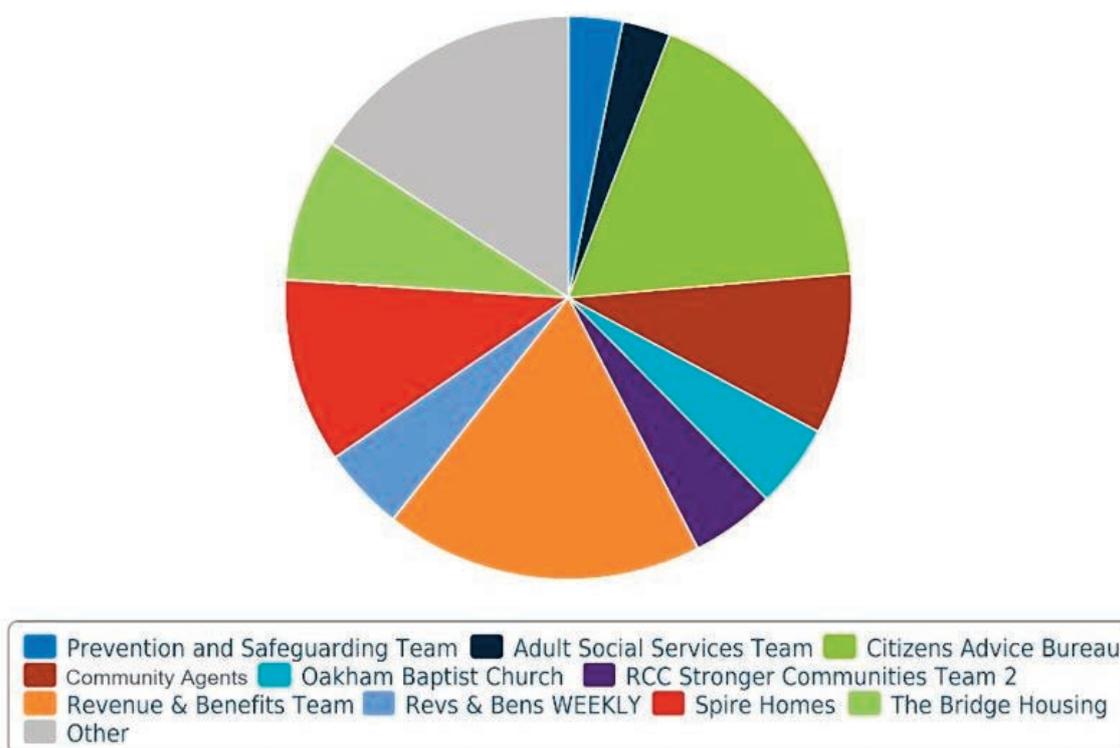
Helen Baggott

We have fed less clients this year, but the work involved remains the same.

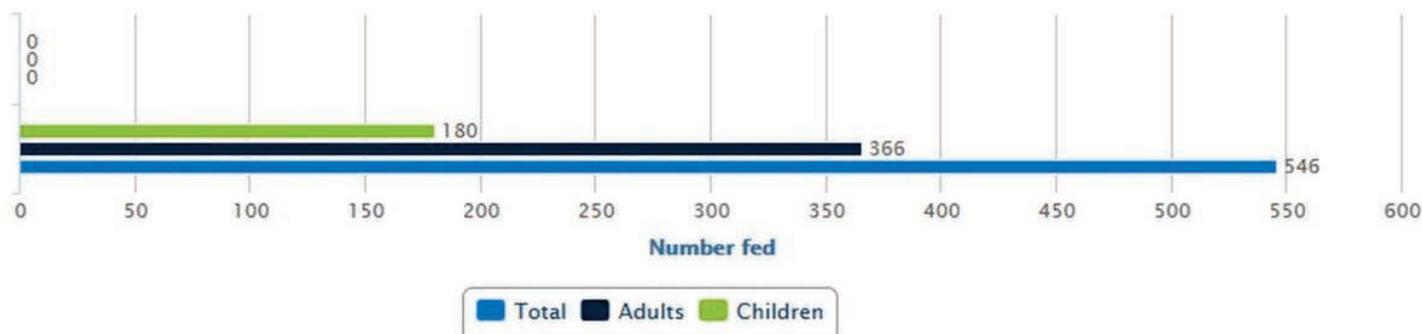
Social workers, and other Statuary workers and voluntary organisations do an amazing job in partnership with the Rutland Foodbank. We have become “settled” in our relationships and I enjoy my liaison with many caring people in our county. The charts give a taste of the referrals.

There have been a number of new voucher holders during the past year, some replacing leavers, two new groups at RCC and more schools. There are 92 Referral Agencies and 28 agencies made referrals.

We contacted all schools in the county offering food parcels during the school holidays to families with children receiving Free school meals.

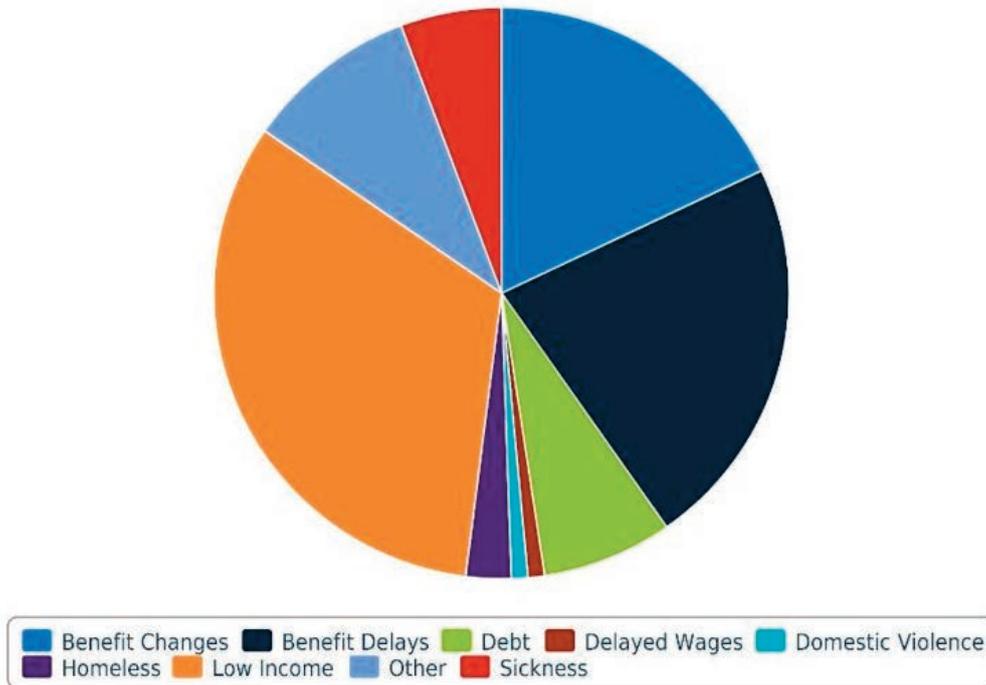


The 28 agencies referred a total of 546 clients
366 Adults and 180 children were fed this year.

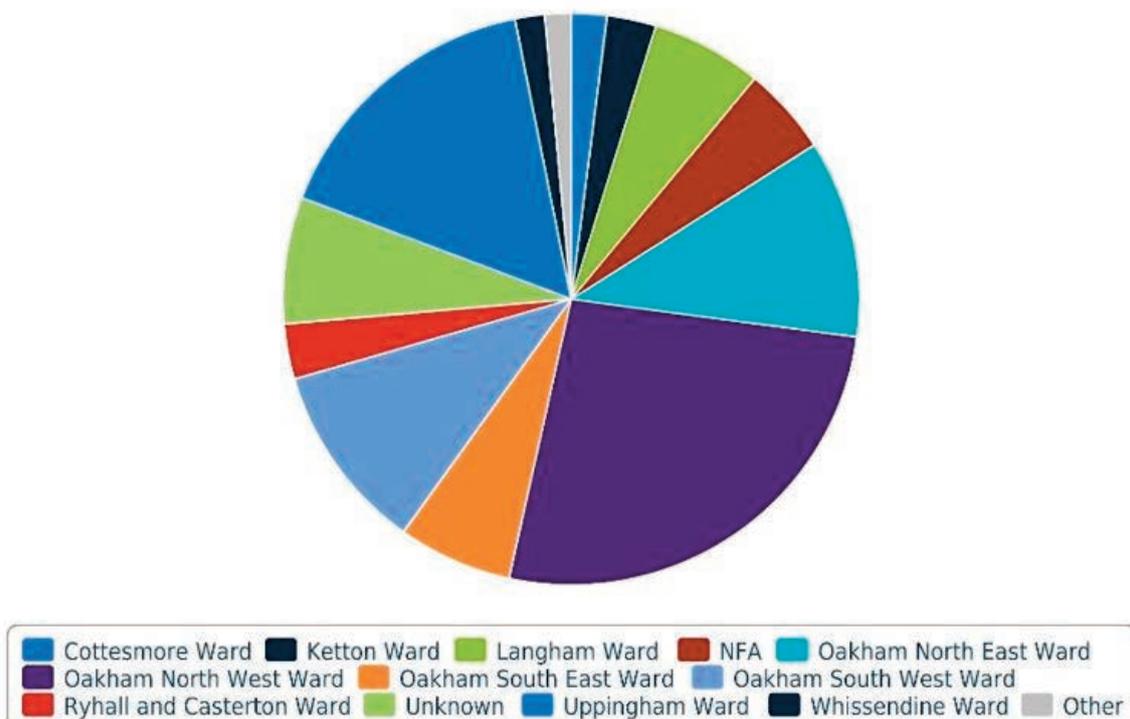


The following pie chart shows reasons for clients referrals to Foodbank. Although still a small number (thankfully) I have noticed an increase in homeless clients. After 6th May 2016

4 clients received more than 3 vouchers in the 6 month period. Our Rutland policy does not prevent clients receiving more than 3 parcels in 6months. We try to signpost clients for more help with other agencies.



The final chart gives details of the Voucher distribution by ward.



Distribution Centre Report

Marlene Branagh (on behalf of all Supervisors)

This year has seen a continuing need for the services of Rutland Food Bank both in our centres in Oakham and Uppingham.

We never know each week who may need our help but it is gratifying that our volunteers are always willing to help in whatever capacity is needed. This may be packing food supplies, encouraging clients to help themselves to extras (luxury and unusual items donated by the public), re-stocking the shelves with goods from the warehouse, making tea or coffee, carrying bags to clients' cars and planting, watering and weeding the area to front of the premises. The supervisors continue to receive support in their face to face work with clients through bi-monthly meetings where we meet to share issues and well as successes and to plan for our future operational work. In addition local support workers have attended some of our meetings to explain how they can and do help the different needs of our clients.

After Reverend Dominic Coad moved on to his new post in Newcastle we began joint meetings with the steering group and this has been beneficial in improving communications

between the operational and strategic arms of Rutland Food Bank. We hope to have continued support from Churches Together in the near future; our Uppingham centre benefits from both clergy and community support. The Safeguarding policy has been updated and our Health and Safety policy reviewed. These are important working documents to support all volunteers in their work at Food Bank and ones which we are obliged to have in place.

When clients come to the centre some have been known to say 'I never thought I'd be coming to a place like this'. They often feel embarrassed or

ashamed but by the time they leave us they are reassured that we are there to help, are always welcoming and friendly and never judgemental. Last October, while some of us were enjoying a coffee morning at the Baptist Church in Oakham to raise funds for the Christmas hampers, former clients visited the Friday morning session at the centre. After being in a crisis situation some months earlier and needing our help they had returned with a large box of donations. They had come to say thank you and their generosity had the volunteers in tears! It may be a voluntary job but what we do is so worthwhile.

Rutland Foodbank

Registered Charity

No 1158460

<http://www.rutland.foodbank.org.uk>

07582 783363