

## Trustees' Report 2024-2025

### Foodbank Objective

*.. the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship of people living in Rutland and neighbouring districts by providing food and other items and services, information, advice, education and supporting in such other ways as the trustees shall from time to time see fit (July 2014)*

### Chair's Report – Ali Wainwright

This was the eleventh year of the Rutland Foodbank. When we opened, few expected that the need for emergency food support would continue for so long.

Rising food and utility costs continued to affect households throughout 2024–25, leading to 616 referrals for 263 households, of which 102 were first-time users.

We continued to deliver seven-day food and toiletries parcels per person, unlike many Trussell Trust foodbanks which only issue three-day, client-collect parcels.

The way we collect our statistics means that we cannot do an actual count how many adults and children we've helped and how often in the year they've received an emergency parcel.

We know that many households only require one or two parcels per person during this time, others received more throughout the year. We supported the equivalent of 814 adults and 595 children, providing nearly 29,500 meals.

Our volunteers remain the heart of the foodbank, giving their time and goodwill to weigh, sort and pack donations and deliver parcels.

As I complete my sixth year as Chair, it is clear that without major reform of the social security system, the need for foodbanks will continue.

I hope you find the report interesting. You will read that 2024-25 was another challenging year but the Rutland Foodbank continues to operate as part of a strong local charitable sector which is well-regarded by Rutland residents.

**Trustees in post 2024–25:** Ali Wainwright (Chair), Sue Brown, Dee Burton, Vaughan Gilbert, Colin Keal (Treasurer).

### **Together with Trussell**

We continue to benefit from regional and national guidance, online resources and shared learning with other foodbanks. Attendance at the Trussell Roadshow in Birmingham and regional gatherings provided opportunities to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and the **Guarantee Our Essentials** campaign.

### **Treasurer's Report – Colin Keal**

The annual accounts accompany this report and thanks to Mr Ian Grimley for carrying out an independent examination.

This year saw a decrease in reserves to £100,650 which was in line with the Trustees decision last year to divert certain donations to other Rutland charities. Reserves still represent two years of general expenditure.

Income was down compared to the previous year by £10,032 and expenditure increased by £11,289, this included purchase of a newer delivery van of £11,335.

The income reduction was due to a decrease in other donations of circa £9,000. Regular donations reduced slightly which was offset by a similar increase in grant income.

Income within the restricted fund (Financial Inclusion Project Yr3) was £ 26,198.

The Trustees are pleased that so many individuals, companies, other charitable organisations, and Churches all decided to donate to the Rutland Foodbank whether directly or by way of various fundraising activities.

## **Volunteers**

Once again we have to record our thanks to everyone who has volunteered during the year. It would be impossible to help as many people as we do without the wonderful team who give their time so freely. Their energy and kindness helps create a charity that truly cares for those experiencing food poverty.

During the year we bade farewell to a number of our volunteers who were moving away. Our thanks to them for their help. We were fortunate in recruiting a handful of new volunteers to help us across our activities. We welcome them and look forward to their support and input.

## **Fundraising**

There were quite a number of specific fundraising events during the year and we have to thank everyone who organised and/or took part. We also had seasonal donation for Harvest and Christmas from local schools, businesses and stores. We are so pleased that they chose to donate to the Foodbank.

## **Communications and networking**

During the year volunteers from the Foodbank have worked with other groups and organisations to raise awareness and have undertaken talks in Schools and to other Rutland groups and charities. This has been an opportunity to raise awareness of the need for the Foodbank explaining how we support local families and households. These groups have also collected donations for us and we are very grateful for their support.

## **Deliveries**

We've continued with our delivery service as we know that public transport, relying upon friends, using taxis or even own transport puts pressure on household budgets.

In October 2024 we retired Clemmie (our bright orange van) and purchased Poppy (our bright red van) between them they once again travelled across the county making over 600 deliveries and other journeys picking up the donations from local collection point

## **Referrals**

There were a range of referrers but the main ones remained Citizens Advice Rutland, frontline staff from Rutland County Council, local support agencies, schools and churches. As clients no

longer have to attend in person and we continued to call them prior to packing to discuss food allergies, whether they needed nappies, pet food etc. It also allowed the team to discuss delivery arrangements.

## Activity

We still operated with packing and delivering five days a week. Some of the sessions were busier than others but the ability to respond to a request for help usually within 24 hours was an important factor in maintaining our operating hours

Year	No. of Vouchers / Referrals	Adults	Children	Total	Meals Provided
2015 - 2016	300	420	232	652	5,686
2016 - 2017	298	372	187	559	5,031
2017 - 2018	366	594	345	849	7,641
2018 - 2019	484	647	495	1,142	10,278
2019 - 2020	544	652	736	1,388	15,492
2020 - 2021	837	1,137	888	2,025	42,525
2021 - 2022	704	1,011	800	1,811	38,031
2022-2023	776	1,169	954	2,123	44,583
2023-24	820	1,190	860	2,050	43,050
<b>2024- 2025</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>29,589</b>

We support all ages and families and individuals. As part of the process of supporting clients we upload information to the confidential Data Collection System maintained by the Trussell. This anonymous data provides us with an insight to the circumstances of our clients and the primary reason for their referral.

Some clients only need support for a short while whilst they are starting a new job or their benefits are getting sorted, but there are some clients who find they need help for during

periods where they have poor health (primarily mental ill-health) or sudden unexpected expenditure such as urgent bills for repairs etc.

- In 2024-25 (last year) we helped 263 households across Rutland.
- In all we received 616 referrals, 102 of these were new households who had not previously needed help from the foodbank.
- We distributed 23,243 kg of donations. The ingredients we distributed were enough to provide just over 29,500 meals.
- Nearly 44% of households only needed one voucher but some needed more.
- 23% of our vouchers were for households where someone was working but still struggling to afford food.
- 47% of our vouchers were for households which included children

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>No. of Parcels Provided</b>
Adults (17-24 yrs)	144
Adults (25-34 yrs)	199
Adults (35-44 yrs)	303
Adults (45-54 yrs)	146
Adults (55-64 yrs)	89
Adults (65-74 yrs)	28
Adults (75+ yrs)	6
Children (0-4 yrs)	141
Children (5-11 yrs)	385
Children (12-16 yrs)	170
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1409</b>

<b>Size of Family</b>	<b>No. of Referrals</b>
Couple (with or without children/additional adult(s))	89
Multi-Adult (with or without children/additional adult(s))	55
Single Adult	287
Single Parent	175
<b>Totals</b>	<b>606</b>

### **Purchased Items**

We continued to purchase fresh potatoes, onions, carrots and apples from Oakham market. In addition, we purchased fresh bread, eggs, cheese and spread so that every household receiving an emergency parcel had these fresh items if they wanted them.

We also used some of the financial donations to purchase additional food and toiletries when we began to distribute more than we were receiving.

### **Collection Points**

Our collection baskets in supermarkets and churches and other local venues help us to collect a range of donations.

The Village Collection Scheme remains a much valued source of donations. We continue to be well supported and would like to record our thanks to the village coordinators who share and update the local community with our Wish-Lists.

### **Food and Toiletries Donations**

We've continued to use Facebook as our main social media again this year. Posting our shortages and Wish-Lists helps highlight items which we would like donated.

Again we've been pleased to receive donations of dog and cat food during the year which has meant we've been able to support Rutland residents to keep their pets.

We received nearly 24,000 kg of donations during the year. Our thanks are sent to everyone who has helped us. A true reflection of the community spirit we have in Rutland, although we experienced a drop in donations made for the supermarket, church, and school collection



baskets. We were delighted to see that wish lists that we produce are helping people understand what items we would like donated. We have core items that we always need as these form the basics in the emergency food parcels we prepare.

The Oakham Tesco store is a Permanent Collection Point (PCP) within the Tesco/Trussell Trust network. The benefit of this is the additional financial donation given by Tesco Corporate based upon the weight of donations collected. This added nearly £2,000 to our income.

### **Seasonal Donations**

During the year we had generous donations from individuals, schools and churches for Easter, Harvest and Christmas which helped us keep our stocks up and share some treats to households. It was lovely to see so many more churches and schools holding Harvest services. Once again we had held a very successful Tesco Winter Collection weekend and received festive donations from a number of local churches, villages, individuals, schools and companies who collected for our Reverse Advent Calendar so we used those donations to add Christmas treats to the emergency parcels we distributed during December.

### **Financial Inclusion Project**

Following a grant application made to the main Trussell Trust Charity in 2022, trustees were pleased to establish a Financial Inclusion (FI) Project for Foodbank clients. The project was funded for three years and has demonstrated significant financial gains on behalf of Foodbank clients. As we entered Yr3 of our the Project the data continues to support the wraparound offer ensuring Foodbank clients get additional help to ensure they are receiving the appropriate benefits allowances and grants that are available.

It works in partnership with Citizens Advice Rutland (CAR). The CAR advisors offer a wraparound support to Foodbank clients. The main purpose of the project is to maximise household income by identifying areas where income can be gained in the hope that the client will be able to move away from Foodbank use and regain control over person expenditure. The CAR advisers refer clients for foodbank vouchers and also provide practical advice on managing money, income maximisation, dealing with debt and improving financial resilience. The aim of the joint project is to empower people to regain control of their finances and reduce

the need for future foodbank support. The CAR advisors also assist clients with other issues such as debt management and signposting to help for managing physical and mental health conditions, if they are not already getting specific support, ensuring that anyone struggling to afford food can access emergency support quickly and with dignity.

Here are a few of the quotes from the clients who were supported by the FI Project in the year.

- *It helped me through a tough time – thank you*
- *Thank you – it was such a relief to have one less thing to worry about*
- *It was so wonderful it made me cry*
- *It was so lovely to find some treats included for my daughter - I wasn't expecting that*

### **Christmas Gift Cards**

For Christmas 2024 Trustees decided that once again to help our clients maintain their independence we would offer them a way of choosing their own treats. To that end we purchased Tesco Gift Cards (the value ranged from £25-£50) depending upon the household size. We offered cards to households who had received at least one emergency parcel since 1<sup>st</sup> October until we closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We contacted clients beforehand to explain the process and to get them to sign for their Gift Card. £4,910 was distributed to 140 households.


## Approaching 2025-26

As 2024 began we noticed a decline in the weight of food and toiletry donations we received. Fortunately, our financial reserves helped us purchase food and toiletries to offset distribution to households in need. In addition, we continued to offer new clients support via the Financial Inclusion Project, if they wished. The volunteers continued to reach out, by including non-food items in the parcels to help these included small toys & colouring books, and a warm blanket for every new household. We know that the operation of the foodbank needs to maintain it's flexibility. Our volunteers maintained their resilience and continued to deal with challenges as they arose, a magnificent team effort.

To end our report we wish to reiterate our thanks to everyone involved with the operation of the Rutland Foodbank Charity and all those who give their support, it is so appreciated.

Signed:   
Print Name: Ali Wainwright, MBE

Date: 30.12.25  
Position: Trustee, Chair

Signed:   
Print Name: Colin Keal

Date: 30.12.25  
Position: Trustee, Treasurer

**Rutland Foodbank**  
Registered Charity No 1158460  
[www.rutland.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.rutland.foodbank.org.uk)  
[info@rutland.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutland.foodbank.org.uk)  
Telephone Number 07582 783363

# Statement of Receipts & Payments

Prepared for Rutland FoodBank: 1/4/2024 to 31/3/2025 (compared with 1/4/2023 to 31/3/2024)\*

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Total*
Donations and Legacies	5,176.72		<b>5,176.72</b>	279.94
.. Gift Aid Claimed	175.00		<b>175.00</b>	6,131.86
.. Grant Income	26,198.35		<b>26,198.35</b>	24,217.45
.. Other Donations	24,307.54		<b>24,307.54</b>	33,101.16
.. Regular Donations	16,661.00		<b>16,661.00</b>	18,860.00
Investments				
.. Interest Received	2,300.28		<b>2,300.28</b>	2,260.92
<b>Total income and endowments</b>	<b>74,818.89</b>		<b>74,818.89</b>	<b>84,851.33</b>
Purchase of Fixed Assets	11,335.00		<b>11,335.00</b>	
Raising Funds				
.. Just Giving Processing Fee	216.00		<b>216.00</b>	216.00
.. Just Giving Transaction Fee				248.38
Charitable Activities				
.. Charity Management & Administration				
.... Advertising	45.00		<b>45.00</b>	40.00
.... Bank Charges	54.68		<b>54.68</b>	60.00
.... Computer Services	186.48		<b>186.48</b>	186.48
.... Insurance	3,031.42		<b>3,031.42</b>	2,461.89
.... Licences & Subscriptions	35.00		<b>35.00</b>	35.00
.... Office Expenses				19.50
.... Postage	8.35		<b>8.35</b>	
.... Printing & Stationery				296.11
.... Sundry Expenses	364.95		<b>364.95</b>	824.13
.... Telephone	1,317.93		<b>1,317.93</b>	1,976.78
.. Finance Project				
.... Employment Costs	25,442.50		<b>25,442.50</b>	12,580.94
.... Equipment Costs	120.00		<b>120.00</b>	
.... Overhead Costs				4,318.00
.... Postage				25.00
.... Room Hire				441.00
.... Supervision Costs				3,548.56
.... Telephone Costs				190.00
.... Travel Costs				78.00
.. Food Parcels	4,300.00		<b>4,300.00</b>	
.... Food Supplies	10,613.32		<b>10,613.32</b>	7,594.95
.... Miscellaneous supplies	680.00		<b>680.00</b>	6,923.88
.... Toiletries				1,054.75
.. Service Delivery				
.... Donations made				6,000.00
.... Premises				
..... Cleaning	20.00		<b>20.00</b>	
..... Fire/Electrical Safety	468.26		<b>468.26</b>	183.36
..... Heating/Lighting	4,153.37		<b>4,153.37</b>	5,312.16
..... Property Improvements	81.90		<b>81.90</b>	413.81
..... Rent	17,472.68		<b>17,472.68</b>	16,687.46
..... Water Rates	94.43		<b>94.43</b>	105.66

# Statement of Receipts & Payments

Prepared for Rutland FoodBank: 1/4/2024 to 31/3/2025 (compared with 1/4/2023 to 31/3/2024)\*

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Total*
. . . . Sundry Distribution Costs				
. . . . . Packaging Costs	116.00		<b>116.00</b>	-2.45
. . . . . Transport Costs	5,639.35		<b>5,639.35</b>	6,081.62
.. Support Costs				
. . . . Safeguarding	311.56		<b>311.56</b>	49.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>86,108.18</b>		<b>86,108.18</b>	<b>77,949.97</b>
All receipts	74,818.89		<b>74,818.89</b>	84,851.33
All payments	86,108.18		<b>86,108.18</b>	77,949.97
Transfers between funds				
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-11,289.29</b>		<b>-11,289.29</b>	<b>6,901.36</b>
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	104,413.72	13,578.59	<b>117,992.31</b>	113,075.62
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>93,124.43</b>	<b>13,578.59</b>	<b>106,703.02</b>	<b>119,976.98</b>

**Rutland FoodBank**  
Charity Commission for England and Wales, No. 1158460  
**Balance Sheet - Comparative**  
As at March 31, 2025

	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024
<i>Fixed Assets</i>		
Tangible Assets	9,068	
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	106,743	117,992
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>115,811</b>	<b>117,992</b>
 <i>Funds &amp; Reserves</i>		
Restricted Funds	13,579	13,579
Unrestricted Designated Funds	1,582	1,582
Unrestricted General Funds	100,650	102,832
<b>Funds Provided</b>	<b>115,811</b>	<b>117,992</b>

Approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on  
30<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Alison Wainwright (CIMA) TREASURER.

Alison Wainwright MBE.  
Alison Wainwright (Chair of Trustees)