



Rutland  
**foodbank**

**Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 14 June 2016  
5:00pm

All Saints Church Hall  
Oakham



# Chairman's Report

*Suzanne Johnson*

April 2015 to March 2016 has demonstrated once again how much we rely on the individual and personal commitment of so many wonderful volunteers.

Our annual audit by the Trussell Trust went extraordinarily well; we were picked out by our Regional Manager as an example of an efficiently-run Foodbank, and she struggled to find areas for improvement in how we operate. This is a reflection on the calibre of our volunteers, who should all be very proud of their achievements.

We have seen a busy year in terms of activities, although the number of people fed is slightly down from 850 to 650. It is generally felt that this is due to an improvement in response times by the DWP, for example, clients are generally waiting 2 weeks for benefit changes/sanc-

tions/queries to be resolved; down from 6 to 8 weeks for periods in the previous year. However, 650 people in Rutland with no food and no money is still too high, and we continue to add weight to the lobbying by the Trussell Trust for the DWP to do more to support people in crisis.

Our premises in Oakham continue to be hugely beneficial in delivering foodbank in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Huge thanks to Mr Dan Gill for his ongoing sponsorship which enables us to rent our own place in Oakham; also to Jane Duce for donating our wonderful warehouse

space, and to the parish church in Uppingham for allowing us ongoing use of the church.

In April we were delighted to work with RALS and Spire Homes to deliver a "Basic Cookery Skills" course. Food was donated by Rutland Foodbank, and teaching delivered by RALS.

Heading towards the General Election, we were invited by All Saints Church to bring a question to the hustings, attended by all the local parliamentary candidates. We also provided a client for interview by an East Midlands Today news journalist, for a televised debate, ahead of the general election. Many thanks to Lisa for her willingness to share her story.

It was helpful to see the work of, and need for, Foodbanks nationally receive a high level of profile. Whatever the politics, it is shocking to see so many people with nothing to eat in our relatively wealthy society and welfare state.

Moving on to the autumn,



we were grateful to receive another large quantity of “harvest” donations, which were sorted by our small, but very dedicated, warehouse team in Langham. We were also delighted to welcome Lewis Clark to our team of volunteers as he seeks to do an hour’s volunteering a week for his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Heading towards Christmas, we again decided to target 200 hampers of Christmas treats for people in crisis across Rutland, to be distributed through our various agencies. Two amazing offers of help came in – one from 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 huge amount of cakes were donated, mostly from Foodbank volunteers. D’reen was able to provide around 60 games; the exact number of families with suitably aged children.

The other incredible donation was over 1200 Christmas crackers, collected by Andy Wright, Housing Services Manager at Spire Homes. Andy personally undertook to collect crackers to add to the hampers, and had a phenomenal response, filling the Spire of-



fices! We were delighted to be able to put a minimum of 6 crackers in each hamper, and noted how very well received they were by the clients.

After Christmas, our warehouse manager, Stephen Carlyle, took the decision after two years of long hours in the warehouse, to step down from his duties. We are very grateful for the many, many hours he put into creating and maintaining a well-run warehouse.

We have been so fortunate that Hilary Smith stepped up in January to fill the role, and after a few weeks of “spring cleaning” and rearranging, the warehouse is looking spick and span and maintains our reputation of being extremely efficiently run.

Since Christmas we have sought to develop our working relationships with local agencies; in particular, we have been delighted to welcome Sheila

Fletcher from Citizens Advice to both a training session for supervisors, and to sit in on live foodbank sessions in Oakham and Uppingham. We have also welcomed Community Agents to our sessions, in particular, Elaine in Uppingham, and Emma Foley from RCC Crisis Support.

The team at Uppingham continue to be very committed, and having great relationships with their clients, many of whom visit for a cup of tea on a regular basis, even if they don’t have a voucher. The numbers at Uppingham continue to be low, but the whole team there feel they are providing a valuable service in Uppingham, and their dedication is very much appreciated.

All in all, a very productive year for Rutland Foodbank, and we look forward to building on the working relationships we have created with the local agencies.

# Financial Report April 2015 – March 2016

*Caroline McCabe*

Rutland Foodbank prepares its accounts on a cash accounting basis, i.e. we simply report the cash received and payments made. The many gifts in kind that enable Rutland Foodbank to operate are not reflected in the accounts.

Warehousing in Langham is donated, nearly 7.8 tonnes of food has been donated during the last year and dozens of volunteers have given their time – none of which is reflected in the figures presented in the accounts. The trustees continue to be extremely grateful for the ongoing support from all these sources.

**Total income for the year was £13,990.** This figure includes the donations for the Christmas Hampers (£2,930) and a grant to

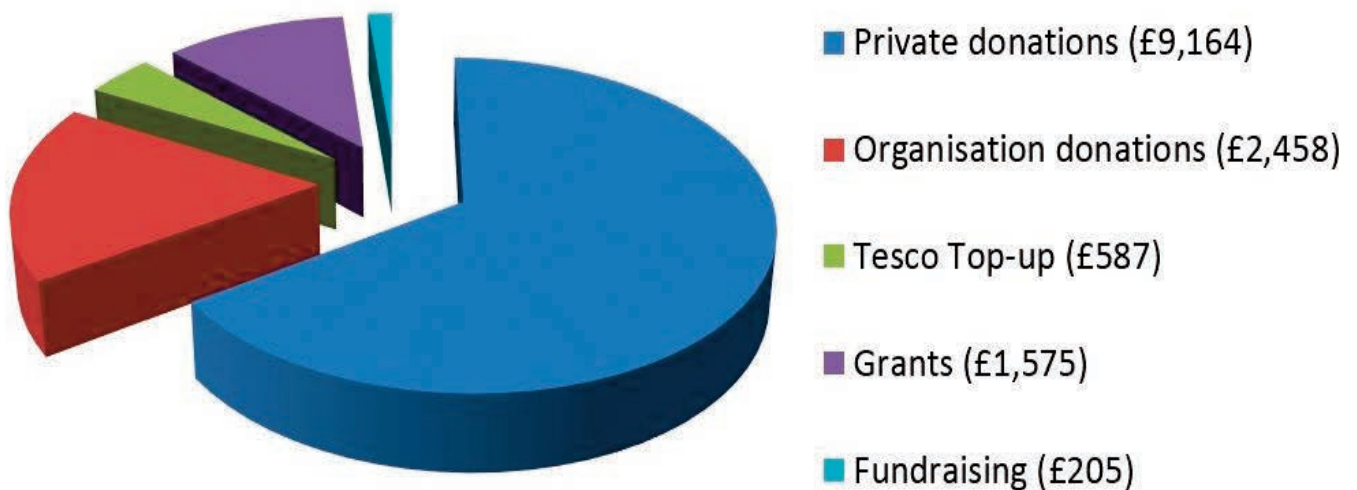
cover the premises running costs at the Oakham Distribution Centre from Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation (£1,575). Our primary source of income is from donations from individuals, which has fallen slightly when compared to the previous annual figure.

Expenditure is predominantly on the premises at Melton Road and on purchasing additional food supplies that are not donated (although the majority of the food supplies this

year were for the Christmas Hampers). Administration costs have remained fairly constant and repair costs have fallen after the initial expenditure of taking the lease at Melton Road, Oakham. **Total expenditure for the year was £11,369.**

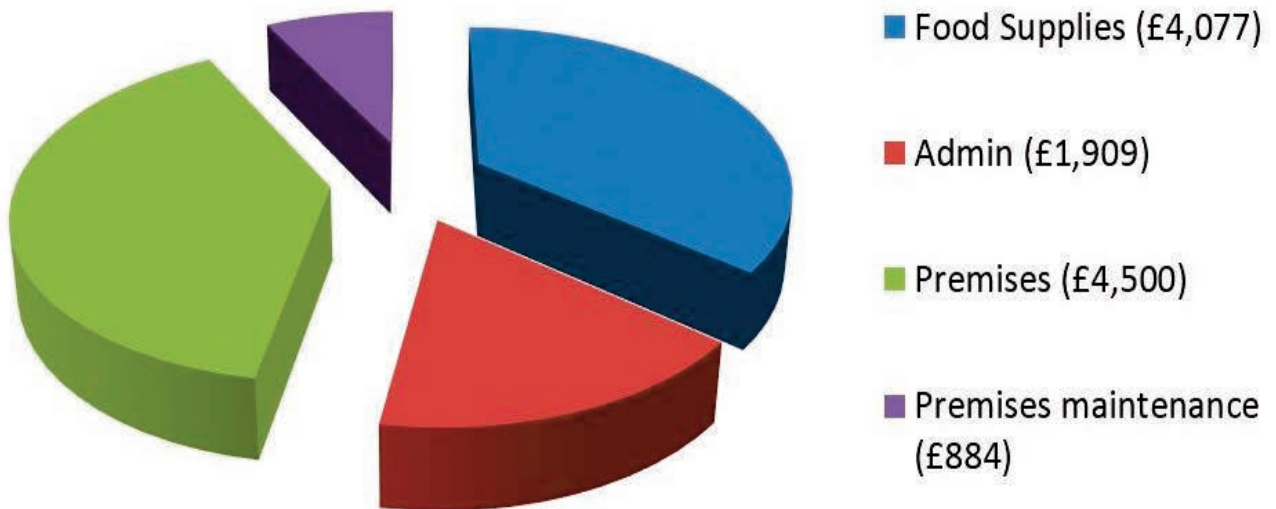
At the end of the year we held £11,269 in unrestricted reserves. £9,000 of this is assigned to premises reserves to cover the committed expenditure of Rutland Foodbank

## Income April 2015 - March 2016





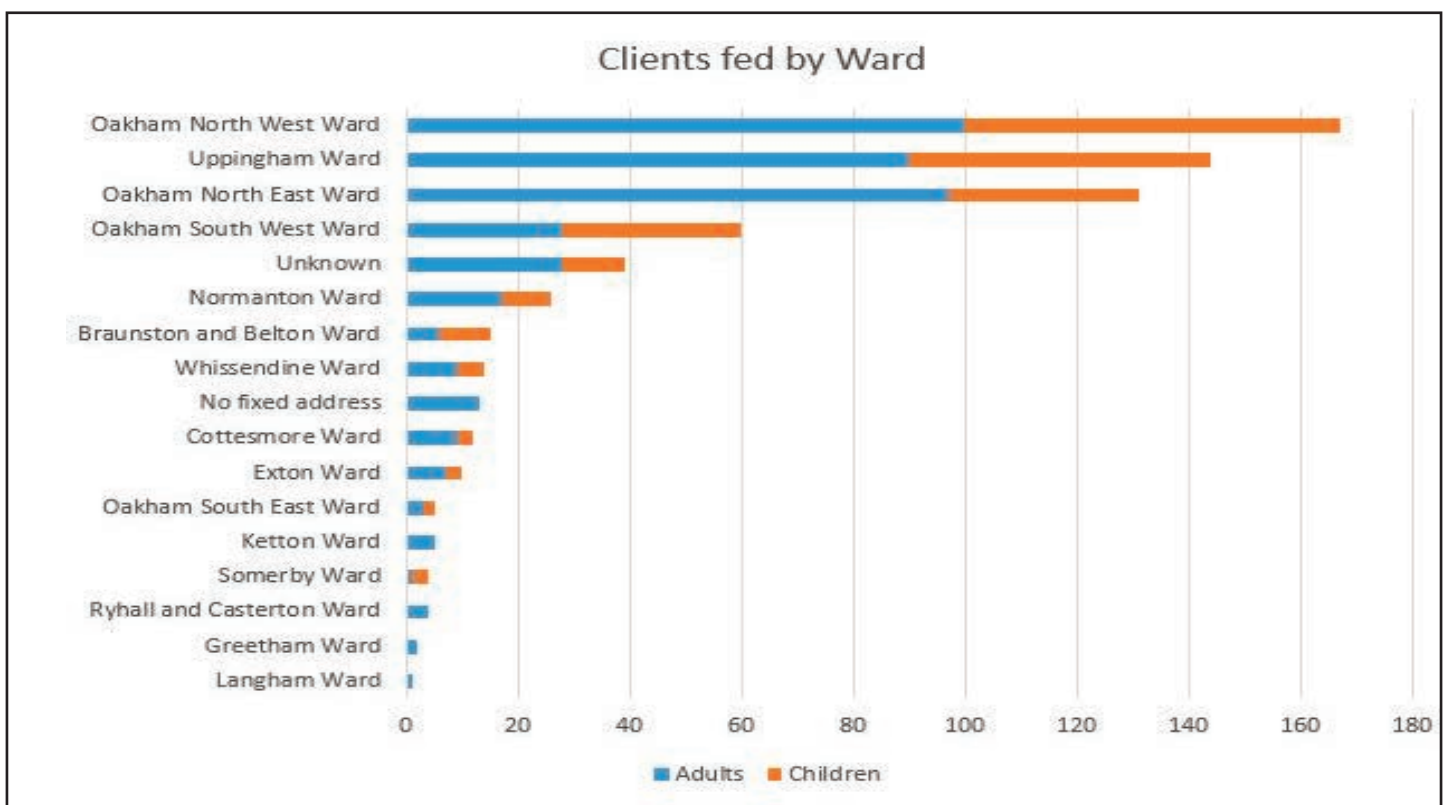
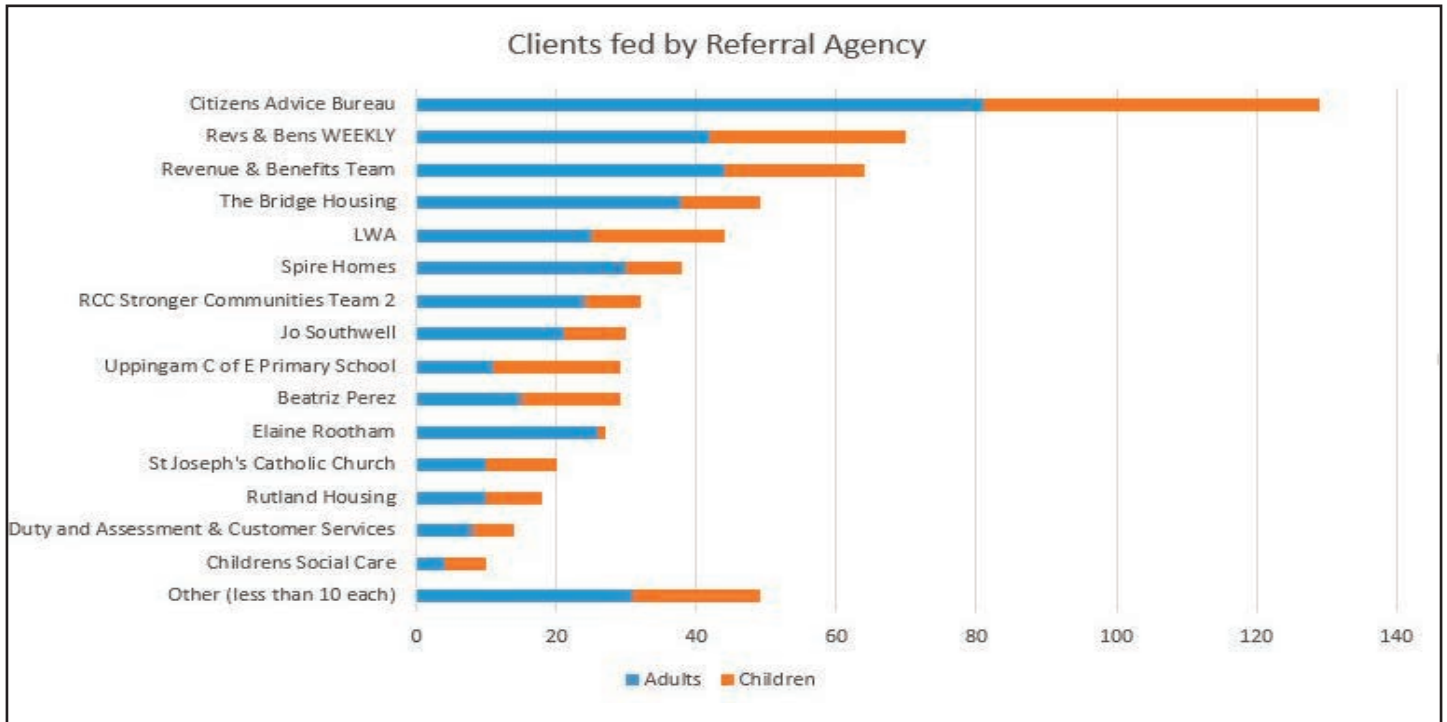
## Expenditure April 2015 - March 2016



# Referral Agencies Report

There are 80 referral agencies registered, including Citizens Advice Bureau, Surgeries, Schools, Churches, Housing / Spire Homes and from Social Care teams, including Children's work / Adult support/ Revenues and Benefits team/ Youth work.

Of these agencies 29 have referred clients during the year 2015/16, resulting in 652 people being fed (420 adults and 232 children), and the graphs below and opposite show the breakdown of these people by agency, by location and by crisis type.



# Distribution Centre Manager's Report

*Dominic Coad*

We are now very well settled into our lovely premises on Melton Road. Our hard working volunteers and a regular visit from a cleaner have ensured our distribution is a friendly and welcoming environment. We even have a beautiful display of summer bedding plants in large planters out front.

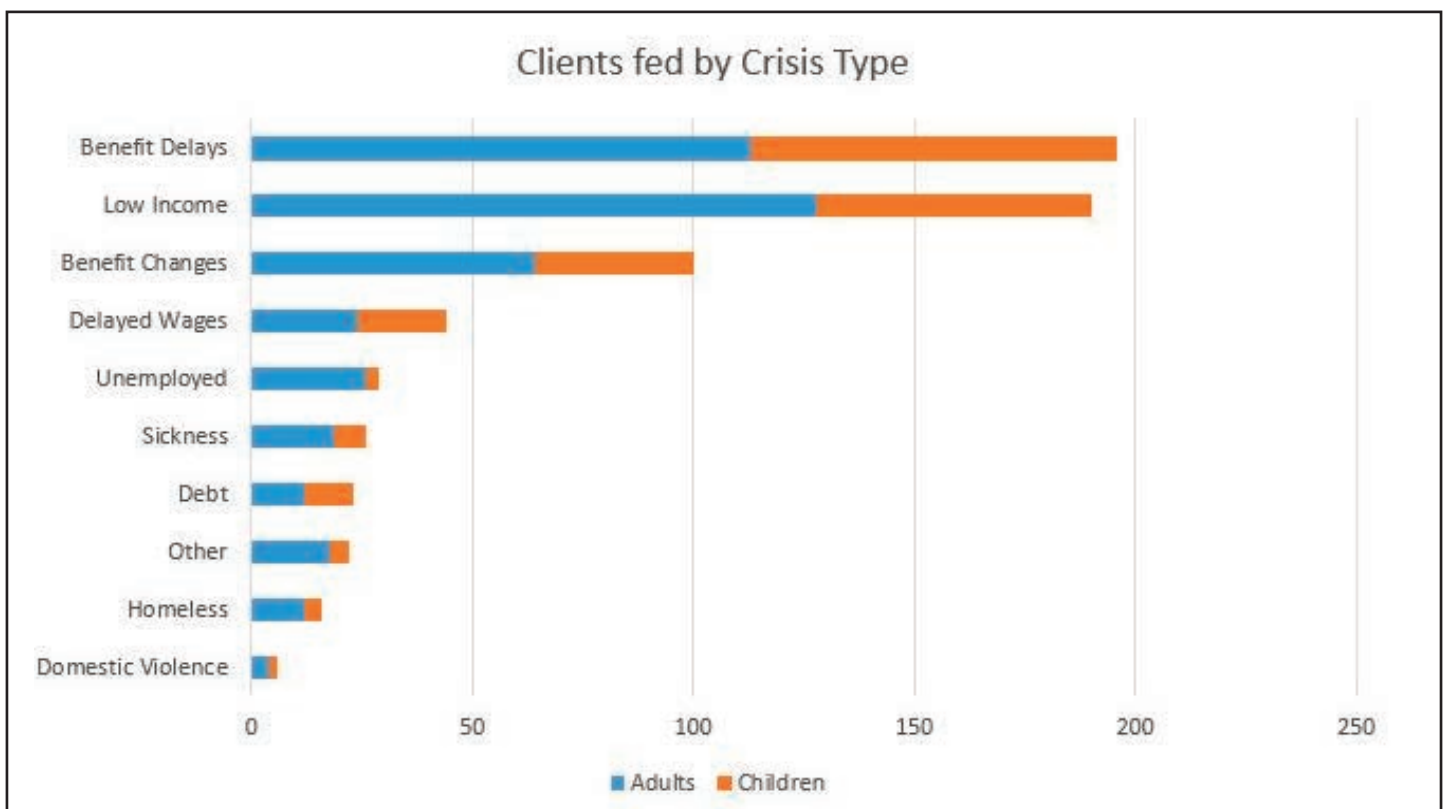
The environment in which distribute the food is a huge asset for us, allowing us to provide a much more pleasant experience than many might expect when coming to use Foodbank. We believe that our gusts should feel cared for – that we want them there – and our environment is essential to achieve this.

My thanks again this year to more than 70 volunteers who make tea, sit and

chat, as well as packing the food parcels which our guests so desperately need. We have been working this year to develop our skills in listening and providing appropriate sign-posting for our clients. We are grateful to the representatives of various support agencies who have joined us to explain what they do and share their experiences of their work. We hope that we will be

able to point our guests to the help they need.

Although we only see most of our clients for a brief time, we hope and believe that the welcome they receive at Foodbank stays with them long after their food has been eaten. Together we can play our part in making Rutland a county where those struggling with poverty are not only helped but valued as members of our communities.





## **Rutland Foodbank**

*Registered Charity No 1158460*

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



**“THE PEOPLE  
AT THE FOODBANK  
WERE WONDERFUL,  
THEY UNDERSTOOD  
AND SAVED US”**