

Newsletter

Summer 2023



Citizens Advice Project... a year on



A year ago, we launched a new service with Citizens Advice Welwyn Hatfield to support clients who are finding themselves trapped in poverty. More than 160 people have accessed one-to-one advice at the foodbank so far. While many queries concerned issues relating to benefits, housing and debt, advice was given on nearly 20 separate topics.

In the last quarter, more than £10,000 of debt has been managed for individuals and 17 people have moved on from needing foodbank support.

Our Stats (as of 30th April 2023)

22,136	people so far have been fed with emergency food by Hatfield Foodbank	
621	people on average are fed by Hatfield Foodbank each month	
270	vouchers are issued by our partner front-line care professionals each month	
4	tonnes of food required each month to feed people in crisis	
35	volunteers regularly give their time to help at the foodbank	
2980	children fed in the last year by Hatfield Foodbank	

Guarantee Our Essentials

The Trussell Trust, alongside the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has launched a new campaign, calling on the UK government to Guarantee our Essentials.

We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and yet people here in Hatfield are going without the essentials we all need to get by.

Everyone's circumstances can change. Losing your job, needing to care for a sick family member, breaking up with your partner - these are things that can happen to any of us. We can't always deal with what life throws at us on our own, which is why we need to have a system in place that supports us all to afford the essentials while we recover from setbacks.

Universal Credit should offer support to anyone in need of help, but right now it's not providing enough to cover the cost of life's essentials, such as food, household bills and travel costs, with 90% of low-income households receiving Universal Credit going without.

The Guarantee our Essentials campaign appeals to the UK government to make sure the basic rate of Universal Credit at least covers life's essentials and that support can never be pulled below that level.

We're proud to support this campaign at Hatfield Foodbank, as we see first-hand how low levels of social security affect people in our community.

Find out more and join the campaign at www.trusselltrust.org/essentials

**GUARANTEE
OUR ESSENTIALS**

"The foodbank helped us in a time where we were really struggling. They give a hand when you need them most and offer advice and support."

Give Help

We are so grateful for the ongoing donations from the public, organisations and corporate businesses which enable us to keep helping people in crisis. It means so much to us and those who receive the food.

A special thanks to Year 8 and 10 pupils at Chancellor's School who organised a collection of over 300 Easter eggs.



We would also like to give a huge thank you to North Mymms Youth Project who held a collection in their local area, totalling an incredible 1272.2kg of food and toiletries.

**North Mymms
Youth Project**

In addition to donations from the public, we are grateful for the continued support from Arla, Hatfield Rotary Club, Simmons Bakery and Tesco Hatfield.



We have been greatly blessed by financial donations and grants we have received recently including those from: Bunzl Retail, Gascoyne Cecil Estates, Hertfordshire Freemasons Charitable Giving, Paradigm Housing Group, Peartree Wellbeing and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

For details of what, how and where you can give (including financial gifts), please see the [Give Help](#) section of our website. Our social media is kept up to date with most needed items.



Don't forget: *Bank the Food* app can keep you updated about what we need.



You can also give food and toiletries via <https://www.givetoday.co.uk/hatfieldfoodbank/>



This year we are part of the @Coopuk Local Community Fund which means you can give when you shop. To find out more, visit: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/75102>

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed and we know that together, we can make that happen.

Shopping list

Items we most need are...

- tinned tomatoes
- pasta sauce
- tinned vegetables
- tinned meats
- tinned custard
- tinned rice pudding
- tinned fruit
- jam and spreads
- long-life fruit juice
- long-life milk
- small jars of coffee

Volunteers

Our wonderful team of volunteers do an incredible job serving the local community. It seems that they love volunteering with us too.

In a recent survey, they gave an average score of 9.9 out of 10 in response to a set of questions that measure engagement, satisfaction and belief in the foodbank.



- *I feel I am valued and appreciated.*
- *It is such a friendly and rewarding environment to be in.*
- *I have been given expert training in the roles that I do and have constant updates as to the progress of the foodbank in attaining its goals.*
- *I love being part of a team. It's a varied role and is very rewarding.*
- *I feel I make a difference, albeit small, to some of the clients by taking the time to listen to their story.*
- *It's great to give something back.*

From our clients...

(*names changed)

Nicola*: It was a great support at the foodbank. Food for my big family of three kids when I was forced to run from my country and this help and support motivates me to be useful here in the UK and concentrated in searching the job by my profession and not be afraid to be hungry. Very friendly staff, open and ready to talk. It supports my family. Great hug!



Do you need help?

We are here for you.

So you can get the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation, we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher as an electronic code. The local agency can also provide or signpost you to long term support, if needed, to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

A full list of our partner agencies can be found on the [Get Help](#) section of our website.

Hatfield Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Gracemead Church, King's Community Church and Kingdom Light Church

Hatfield Foodbank

Open Tuesdays, 11.30am-2pm
Gracemead House, Woods Avenue,
Hatfield, AL10 8HX

(for SatNav use AL10 8EW)

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