

NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2023

Financial Inclusion Project

Launched in April 2022, our service with Citizens Advice Welwyn Hatfield supports clients who are finding themselves trapped in poverty.

People have been supported with a wide range of issues including those relating to benefits, housing, utilities and debt.

Nearly £20,000 of debt has been written off for people using the service.

More than 75 people no longer need to use the foodbank, after accessing advice and support.



Our Stats (as of 31st August 2023)

25,891	people so far have been fed with emergency food by Hatfield Foodbank	
682	people on average are fed by Hatfield Foodbank each month	
300	vouchers are issued by our partner front-line care professionals each month	
5,000	kg of food required each month to feed people in crisis	
37	volunteers regularly give their time to help at the foodbank	
3,366	children fed in the last year by Hatfield Foodbank	

Mayor's Charity

We are so pleased that the new Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah, has chosen us as one of two local charities to support during his term of office. His support is an affirmation of all we do to help local people in crisis. This partnership will assist us as we continue to provide much needed food and toiletries to individuals and families who are struggling. The Mayor will be organising various events and activities throughout the year to raise money for his chosen charities.

Councillor Shah said, "I am delighted to support these two wonderful charities that do so much good work in our borough especially during the cost-of-living crisis. They both help people and families who are facing hardship and challenges, and they both demonstrate compassion and kindness. I hope that through my fundraising efforts, I can raise awareness and funds for these worthy causes."



Partners

We are grateful for our partner agencies who help us meet the needs of those in crisis. Over 100 referral agencies work with us to signpost and support people accessing the foodbank.

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

"Without them I don't know what I would have done."

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.

We would like to give thanks to the schools and churches who supported our Bring-A-Tin Appeal. We had nearly 700kg of food donated.



It was a privilege to be part of Protech Solutions Limited 15th birthday celebrations. They kindly invited us to join them in their hospitality tent at the Hatfield House Battle Proms. As part of their celebrations, they presented us with a very generous gift of £800. Thank you, Protech Solutions.



Thank you to everyone who donated during our special Tesco collection days. It all makes a difference. Our next Tesco collection event is 30th November to 2nd December.



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: Birchwood Trust, King's Community Church, Mac's Hart Trust and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

We also received a bequest from a local resident, who donated every week at Waitrose in Welwyn Garden City when she was alive and thought of us in her will. It's a great way of supporting our work.

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 until 21st October 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 soup
- tinned custard
- tinned rice pudding
- tinned fruit
- jam and spreads
- long-life fruit juice
- small jars of coffee
- shower gel

Volunteers

Our team of volunteers are amazing! A massive thank you to all of you.

Several of our team were invited to the borough council's afternoon tea especially for volunteers. They had a wonderful time.



We had a great social in June, organised by Martin and Catherine - a lunch at Harpsfield Hall followed by a trip to the Bunker at Hatfield Police Station.

A special thanks must go to Catherine who organised and hosted our volunteers' coffee morning in July.

From our clients...

(*names changed)

Jason*: I cannot understate the contribution of those volunteering at Hatfield Foodbank. Everyone has been gracious, kind and has never once thrown anything resembling judgement my way. Their empathy and want to do good has given me the strength, hope and resiliency to progress from a post-pandemic living situation full of self-pity and self-neglect to someone healthy and secure enough to become a contributing member of society again. Thank you for this service and these people.

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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