

Newsletter



Issue No 02 – 30/4/2023

Financial inclusion project

Financial inclusion is a term which can mean many things to different people. It can be about whether people have access to appropriate financial products and services, whether they have the skills to manage their money or whether they have enough money to meet their day- to-day living costs.

The Trussell Trust's approach to financial inclusion is focused on addressing the root causes of crisis and striving to ensure that people are able to reach a point where their income meets their needs, and they no longer have to access emergency food. Devizes and District Foodbank have been fortunate to receive grant funding from the Trussell Trust in order to set up a financial inclusion project in Devizes.



This project will give us the opportunity to not only offer additional support to those accessing the foodbank but will also bring back some face-to-face contact.

We will hold two foodbank sessions each a week in St James Centre which is close to the town centre. People who have a voucher from a partner agency, will be able to pick up their food parcels at these sessions. When they arrive at the centre, volunteers will welcome them with a hot drink, offer to refer them to the Citizens Advice Worker attending the session, and provide further signposting support where possible.

“ *Our vision is for a UK without the need for food banks...* ”

Meet the Trustee

Richard S Oliver OBE

Richard has been a Trustee of the Foodbank since 2016 and became Chairman in 2021. The family moved to Devizes in 2009, having lived in the Middle East for around 15 years. Richard's first degree had Economics and Politics as majors and he is particularly interested in Welfare Economics. He took a second degree in finance and was awarded an OBE in 2019 by HM Queen Elizabeth II for services to British business and to the community in the United Arab Emirates. He is also a Trustee of St James's Church and of Devizes OpenDoors and is a local School Governor.



Community Organiser

Thank you for your support!

The last few months have been busy, with ongoing campaigns around increasing school uniform affordability, influencing Wiltshire Council in the way they give out money from the Government to support households in financial difficulty, asking for more accessible support schemes from the Council for people in crisis, and gaining access to energy bill support for people living on houseboats.

This has involved speaking to families, schools and educational trusts about school uniform and giving out template letters to engage with schools; facilitating a meeting between Danny Kruger MP and members of the Boater community, and many other things. If you have experience or are interested in any of these topics, please contact me to help make sure that no-one is in the position where they have to use a food bank.

alex@devizesanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Stocks are running low: we are currently in need of

Instant mashed potato
Tinned custard
Tinned potatoes 300g
Tinned tuna
UHT dairy milk
Long life fruit juice
Shampoo
Toilet rolls

Thank you so much for all your support over the last year. We really appreciate everything you continue to do, enabling us to make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in the SN8, SN9 and SN10 areas.

On Wednesday 26 April, we released our End of Year stats. They include shocking new figures which reveal that 2943 emergency food parcels were provided to local people who couldn't afford the essentials between April 2022 and March 2023 – 1121 of these went to children. This isn't right and we know things don't have to be this way. As we reflect on these extraordinary times together, we want to give a huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations of time, food and money.

Together, we are united by care and compassion, committed to doing everything we can to support people facing impossible decisions.

And we're proud to be working alongside food banks in the Trussell Trust network to push for the long-term changes that will mean everyone can lead fulfilled lives, free from financial hardship. That's why, together with the Trussell Trust, we are calling for MPs across the UK to support a social security system that guarantees our essentials, by making sure that the basic rate of Universal Credit is at least enough to afford the essentials we all need.

If you would like to take part and find out more, please visit www.trusselltrust.org/essentials.

While we do that longer-term work, your support continues to be crucial. As we navigate these challenging times together, we would encourage you to please continue having conversations with your friends, family and neighbours about the impossible decisions that people visiting the food bank are facing and how they can help us over the coming months. You may also like to write to your local MP so they raise awareness of the changes that will prevent and pull people out of poverty.

Thank you for all that you're doing.

Contact us

Please phone us on 07807 973605 and leave a message if we are not available to answer.

Alternatively drop us an email – our email address is given below.

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

Devizes and District Foodbank

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Registered in England & Wales

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