

## Financial Inclusion Project at St James Foodbank Centre

Our Financial Inclusion project at St James Foodbank Centre has reached its first year anniversary. People who have a voucher from a partner agency, are able to pick up their food parcels at the centre. When they arrive, volunteers welcome them with a hot drink, offer to refer them to the Citizen's Advice (CA) caseworker attending the session, and provide further signposting support where possible.

Opening mid May last year, it took a while to get off the ground but is now proving to be quite successful. 349 vouchers were fulfilled in the first year and a further 64 since 1 June this year. Our visitors welcome the chance to talk face to face with the CA caseworker and CA stats show that 67 clients were seen by the caseworker in the first year. Financial gains to these clients was a total of £134,803. In addition, £30,818 worth of debt was managed with £5,869 being written off.

Our visitors tell us how much they appreciate having someone willing to take the time to listen to them. We have a good team of volunteers but we will always take on more so we have a backup for holidays and sickness. Please do contact us if you are interested in helping on either a Monday 10am to 1pm or Thursday 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

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

## Volunteering for Devizes and District Foodbank

We currently have over 40 active volunteers who collect, weigh and pack food donations, deliver emergency food boxes and provide a safe, welcoming and friendly place where people can come to talk, be listened to and supported.

We are still recruiting drivers (either our van or own vehicle if large enough) to take emergency boxes from our warehouse in Devizes to St James Foodbank Centre and/or return any leftover boxes to the warehouse at the end of the session. The times we need drivers for are: Mondays: collect 12.30pm and Thursdays: deliver 12.45pm and collect 3pm.

Volunteer are also needed on an ad hoc basis in the Devizes warehouse sorting and packing.

If you can help with any of these volunteer roles on a regular (or fairly regular) basis, please email the Project Manager for more details: [liz@devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:liz@devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)



### Contact us

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

Alternatively drop us an email: [info@devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

# Community Organiser

In the last three months, the main focus of the Community Organising team has been the campaign around the lack of flooring, curtains and blinds in social housing properties, An Empty House Isn't A Home.

This campaign led by a team of tenants has gained momentum, including through sending out a joint letter to social housing providers. The letter outlines the impacts of empty houses (with photos), and our three campaign asks around keeping in the previous tenant's flooring and curtains, replacing these where necessary rather than leaving properties bare, and ensuring tenants receive support from organisations providing carpets and other items.

We're planning a survey to gather data, have a forum booked for housing providers in October, and will be taking the campaign to community events in Devizes in the Autumn.

The Community Organising team had its first group of students doing work experience at a local secondary school, where students learnt about activism, community organising, and campaigning to end the need for food banks in the UK! You can find out about Community Organising on Facebook @Devizes Community Organiser

## Meet the Trustee

### Hollie Stoner

With a solid educational foundation in Social Policy and Public Policy, Hollie has dedicated the past decade to effecting positive change in the charity sector. Specialising in addressing social exclusion and homelessness, offering operational and strategic guidance across various areas, including safeguarding and risk management, ensuring the well-being of vulnerable individuals.



Please support us by donating food. **We are currently in need of:**

UHT dairy milk	Instant mash potato
Long life fruit juice	Tinned peas or carrots
Tinned soup	Shampoo and/or conditioner
Tinned tomatoes	Ladies shower gel
Long life sponge puddings (minimum of 4 months to best before date)	Toilet rolls

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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