



## Corrine Boden MBE, Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank Director of Operations



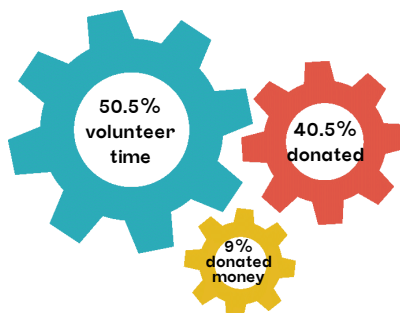
“April 2025 saw us report the completion of another challenging year, supporting 20,000 people facing food poverty, for a second year running.

With many in the community at large struggling with the continuously rising cost of living, we have met the challenges of reduced donations and rising costs.

We are proud to say that our focused approach has managed to navigate a course through, with grants successfully applied for to meet food purchases, and selfless giving still by many. Especially valued are our hardworking staff and volunteer team, who we couldn't do this without.

Our referral system, with vouchers issued through our network of referral agencies, continues to ensure that the right support is provided at the point of crisis. This, alongside the additional routes to support offered at our foodbank centres, helps to prevent the same crisis from recurring.

An estimated 79% of people accessing our services required just one or two emergency food parcels in the last six-month period.”



**According to our 2024/2025 figures, for every £9 given we will turn it into £100 of our services, thanks to the generous giving of donated food and volunteer time.**

## Together

### Businesses and their communities remain key.

Food donated by customers at supermarkets, and by church and business communities, remains one of our main sources of support – a vital lifeline over the past six months, enabling us to continue supporting people locally.

With the challenges of the past few years, businesses have taken on an increasingly significant role.



We were delighted to welcome some of our Business Friends to our Pathfinder Impact Event in May.

## Foodie Friday

Could your workplace host a "nearest-to-payday Friday" collection, like our Business Friends at EEUK?

Keep an eye on our social media and website to see what we're short of each month.



## Time & Support

We have been pleased to see more and more businesses supermarket volunteering for the first time, or returning like our Business Friends - the team from Equans - who understand how important our supermarket customer food donations are, making up 42% of our yearly donations.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Business Friends to the warehouse for our busiest time of year: Harvest and the run-up to Christmas.

We are delighted that, inventively, Equans are looking to match-fund the money collected from their supermarket volunteering. Other business giving has included storage space provided by our friends at EEUK Group.

## We Need Your Help

Coming to a foodbank in need of emergency food is not just about food - it's about not having enough money.

In Stoke-on-Trent, one third of households are indebted through a loan originally taken out for food, housing, or essential bills.

Households in the bottom 40% of incomes (nationally, and many disproportionately locally) are projected to be £440 worse off per year over the next four years.

## We cannot do this on our own...

Please help us continue to be here for people locally when they need us and #bethedifference

- £32.40 will help us provide one of our 3-day nutritionally balanced food parcels
- £200 will pay for 13 hours of money triage
- £2,000 would pay for one month's salary for financial support in our centres

We are looking to raise £20,000 - £1 for every person helped in 2024/2025.

If you'd like to know more about becoming a Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank Business Friend, contact:  
caroline@stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk or  
corrine@stokeontrent.foodbank.org

## Don't wait to catch up on our news!

Follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter by emailing caroline@stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk.

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## A Voice To Be Heard:

### Guarantee the Essentials Lobby Day

As a food bank within the Trussell network we have a responsibility to communicate the drivers of food poverty to influence key policy makers to actively create change as we work towards ending the need for food banks.

"On the 18th of June, over 700 delegates including Trussell, and representatives from Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), Feeding Britain, and the Salvation Army from across the UK attended a historic lobby at Westminster as part of the Guarantee Our Essentials campaign.

Nicola and Anne of Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank were excited to attend and meet with all Stoke-on-Trent MPs, including Dr Allison Gardner (Stoke South MP), Gareth Snell (Stoke Central MP) and David Williams (Stoke North and Kidsgrove MP) to deliver an open letter signed by local representatives asking for the following key legislative changes:

- A legal minimum (the 'Essentials Guarantee') in Universal Credit - the standard allowance would need to at least meet this amount, and deductions (such as debt repayments to the government, or as a result of the benefit cap) would not be allowed to reduce support below that level.
- An independent process to regularly recommend the Essentials Guarantee level, based on the cost of essentials (such as food, utilities and vital household items) for the adults in a household (excluding rent and council tax).
- The UK Government would be required to set the level of the Essentials Guarantee at least annually, based on the recommendation of the independent process. However, our analysis indicates that it would need to be at least £120 a week for a single adult and £205 for a couple.

Speaking out against the levels of severe hardship we see locally, and asking policymakers to play their part in delivering urgent and meaningful change to our social security system, is important to Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. We believe in an Essentials Guarantee, which would ensure Universal Credit is fit for purpose, helping to prevent people from having to use a food bank.

We thank the MPs for their time and for listening to a real account of someone who has recently visited our food bank. We look forward to further interactions and developing a local campaign to create change." Nicola Shaw

## Our Highlights - Out & About

**Pictured at our Business Friends' Goddard & Dunbar's Celebratory Event, Closomat's site visit and update, Altecnic's new facility opening.**

**Do get in touch if you'd like us to visit you and talk about our work.**



This newsletter was created by the social stuff for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank.

If you'd like support with newsletters, branding, social media management, or anything social-related, get in touch at shannon@social-stuff.co.uk or 07470285516.

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