

Annual Report for Alnwick District Foodbank for year ended 2018

Introduction:

As I look back on 2018, it is difficult to believe that we have come such a long way from the few of us gathered round a table at Costa in February 2014 wanting to address the poverty needs within our community. So much has happened in the last year: Alnwick District Foodbank is now a charity in its own right with gifted and committed trustees; our volunteer base – which is the very heartbeat of the organisation – now accounts for nearly thirty people; we have seen record donations and equally given out a record number of food parcels. We are on the cusp of moving to new premises whilst continuing to be grateful to Costa in Alnwick for providing us the space that we need in the meantime to store stock and, to the staff at the Salvation Army in Alnwick for acting as our ‘frontline’. We are now working with at least ten key agency partners, including Social Workers, CAB and Healthcare, promoting our ‘third party’ approach through professionals thereby protecting the anonymity of those who struggle with the stigma of needing food parcels. Our social media presence is at its highest and is a very successful way of communicating our short-term needs and long-term vision; Katie Roskams does an amazing job in this role. Our donation points are now numerous and well used by our ever-generous community. To say that it has been a year of growth would be something of an understatement!

Food parcels:

The record number of parcels that I alluded to in my introduction has specifically seen over 350 people supported including 75 children under the age of 5. In addition, following a successful trial in 2017, we reached 34 families whose children are on free school meals as a result of committing to providing food during Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. This was a mammoth effort co-ordinated by several of our trustees, a logistical challenge for which the recipients were hugely grateful. To put it in context, over the course of 2018, well over 500 food parcels have helped alleviate poverty in our locality!

Volunteers:

This role is co-ordinated by trustee Andrew Bolton and primarily sees a weekly team, collecting, sorting, weighing, delivering and packing parcels. The organisation simply could not exist without the willingness and commitment of this group of people who do so much in helping provide the service with a cheerful attitude and quiet efficiency. The number of parcels that I have just referred to is testament to their sheer hard work and dedication.

Vision:

As we have grown, the need to secure ground floor premises is a priority. This I hope will be resolved in 2019 and I’m hopeful that it will give us the platform to not only serve the existing needs but also help us to expand our service so that we can eventually provide ‘wrap around care’ from a single base. We are hoping to be part of a wider ‘social prescribing’ initiative and continuing to build on our already good relationships with the medical profession, social services and other key agency referring partners.

Finance:

This year, we have sought to promote our need for financial donations in order to give us stability and the opportunity to grow. We are delighted to have monthly givers and hope our 'donate' button on the website will see us achieve our monetary goals so that we can match our commitments and expand. This is critical for our long-term sustainability.

Trustees:

Last but by no means least, I wish to give credit to my fellow trustees: Andrew Bolton, Bryony Stimpson, Maureen Buchanan, John Knight, Chris McElhone, Clive Gibson and minute taker Kirsten Sutherland. I am blessed to work alongside this brilliant and diverse group of people and count it a privilege to do so. Equally, I want to acknowledge the efforts of outgoing trustees: Frances Allsop, Peter Sutcliffe and Gill Bray all of whom brought expertise and vision to the organisation during their tenure.

Conclusion:

In closing this annual report, I feel thankful for where we have come from in such a relatively short period of time and equally hopeful and indeed expectant for where the future takes us. I'm also a very firm believer as chair in 'keeping a gentle hand on the tiller' until the next part of the voyage requires a new captain with a skill set to take us into uncharted waters. With that in mind, I am delighted that trustee Clive Gibson, who previously headed up The Peoples Kitchen in Newcastle will assume the role of chair in Spring 2019. He was unanimously approved by the trustees and I have every confidence that Clive can facilitate the unfolding vision for Alnwick District Foodbank.

Whatever thoughts and views people may have regarding the emergence of foodbanks, I remain convinced that whilst there are those in poverty in our locality, ADFB is an organisation that can bring hope to those in despair and be good news to those in need.

Chris Friend

Acting Chair of Alnwick District Foodbank

6th March 2019



Finance report ADFB for 26/04/19

2017/18 Summary:

Funds Brought Forward

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Cash | £56.92 |
| Yorkshire Building Society | £7,564.49 |
| Total FBF | £7,621.41 |

Income Restricted Grants

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Regular Donations | £780.00 |
| Other Donations | £3,838.97 |
| Interest | £12.71 |
| | £4,631.68 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Insurance | £217.20 |
| Equipment | £120.47 |
| Volunteer Transport | £43.20 |
| Mobile | £30.00 |
| Publicity | £90.00 |
| Food for Bags | £15.20 |
| Repay Grant | £1,500.00 |
| Volunteer Thanks | £19.20 |
| | £2,035.27 |

Funds Carried Forward

£10,217.82

Balances at 30th June 2018

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Cash | £125.01 |
| YBS | Closed |
| Lloyds | £10,084.31 |
| Total | £10,209.32 |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | £8,567.32 |
| Research | £1,432.00 |
| Consultancy | £210.00 |
| Total | £10,209.32 |

Current Position

My records have:

Lloyds 23,110.23

Cash 157.66 (Need to get payments out from John)

Total 23,267.89

Comprising:

General 15,485.89

Premises 5,840.00

Research 1,732.00

Consultancy 210.00