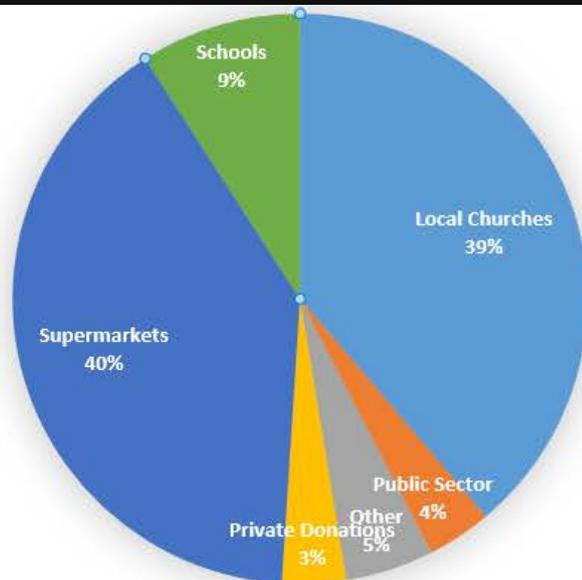


Wirral Foodbank providing Emergency food for local people in crisis

Issue 4— August 2017

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Where do we get our food?

The generosity of the people of Wirral never ceases to amaze us. Despite the economic pressures, donations are received on a weekly basis. The majority of our donations are received from individuals, who give via their local churches, schools, places of work and local supermarket collection points.

Without this support, we could not meet the needs of those who attend our foodbank centres.

In addition to food items, we provide toiletries and hygiene products. We believe it is important to provide these items, and we are grateful for such donations.



We are grateful to local businesses, local and national Government Agencies, and other organisations who support us in many ways, including the donation of food, volunteers, and other professional support.

The photograph shows Employees of Lloyds Bank and Foodbank volunteers sorting food in the Warehouse.



National Volunteers' Week

In June, we celebrated National Volunteers' Week, recognising the tremendous work undertaken by our volunteers. Wirral Foodbank has 297 volunteers, engaged across a variety of activities, including Warehouse, Office, Foodbank Centres, Supermarket collections, IT, publicity etc.

Across the UK, volunteers provide a vital role in supporting local people in their communities.

We are also grateful for those who support the Foodbank financially. Our thanks go to Helen and Alex, who volunteer for the foodbank; they asked guests at their recent wedding to donate money to the foodbank, rather than buying them a wedding gift. A total of £3,800 was collected. Congratulations to Helen and Alex.

At the time of writing, Jill, one of our volunteers is walking 90 miles of the Dales High Way in aid of the Foodbank. Good luck and thank you.



Thank you to all for your support. **Richard Roberts, Manager, Wirral Foodbank**

A day at Link with Emanuel Distribution Centre

by Paula Walker, co-ordinator at Link with Emanuel

“Link is open every Friday, between 2.45pm and 4.30pm; we are a very busy centre feeding numbers up to 50. We have a great team of volunteers on duty every week.

Volunteers take on various roles, including meet and greet clients, show them to our cafe area and offer them a drink. Other volunteers make drinks and help in the kitchen. At the same time our volunteers talk with clients, discuss their food requirements, fuel needs, and any other difficulties highlighted.

We also offer bread and butter with a Christian message printed on the butter to the client, if they wish to receive this, it often opens up opportunity for pastoral care if asked for.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are involved in various activities, including packing and giving the food to the client, submitting fuel voucher applications.

We are grateful for the support of Citizens Advice Wirral, who are present during the session providing advice and support, this service is invaluable to clients.

Recently a young woman came to us highly distressed and agitated. The agency who had issued the food voucher had asked her to leave as she was shouting at them. She said they would not listen to her. At this point she started shouting and swearing how no-one listens to her. An experienced volunteer sat with her and said he was happy to listen, the effect was immediate, she was calm. She was able to share her crisis, and told us that she was about to be evicted during the next week, and was terrified!

The volunteer introduced the young woman to Citizens Advice Wirral representative, who proceeded to help her.

I have shared this story because the young woman came back to us the following week. She explained how delighted she was with the advice and help given to her. It had changed everything, all because she was listened to, and the right skill was in place to help her out of her immediate crisis.

Our aim is to see clients leaving us knowing they are valued and feeling hopeful, not filled with dread about their future. We do our very best.”



The year so far

Between January and July 2017 we fed and supported 6,340, this included 1,998 children. The top three reasons for foodbank referral continue to be benefit delay 27%; low income 26% and benefit change 20%.

Can we come and visit you?

We would welcome the opportunity to come to your church, organisation or business and share with you the work of the Foodbank. Please contact us on 0151 638 7090 or email manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk

Christmas is coming!

Don't panic!! We are already planning for the introduction of Universal Credit in November, to ensure we are prepared to meet the possible increase in demand over the Christmas period.

Stop Press!

We have an Olympic Champion at the Foodbank. Adam, one of our volunteers, won a gold medal for ten-pin bowling at the Special Olympic, GB National Games. Congratulations Adam.

Future events:

Food Collection –
27th October 2017 – Tesco, Heswall, 11am – 7pm
30th November, 1st & 2nd December - three day collection at Tesco Heswall, Bidston and Rock Ferry



Contact Details:

Wirral Foodbank, Wirral Business Centre, Unit 14 Dock Road, Birkenhead, CH41 1JW Tel: 0151 638 7090

www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

email: enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk

Charitable incorporated organisation registered in England with charity number 1167967



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