

The Andover Foodbank had another busy year providing support to people affected by the increase in the cost of living. We fed nearly 7000 people who were not able to afford the essentials. This was an encouraging 4% less than the number fed in 2023. The number of family and double boxes decreased but single boxes increased

1329

Family Boxes

-8%

650

Double Boxes

-9%

1418

Single Boxes

15%

2.4

was the average number of visits for food boxes but some people needed more help. For 28% of these this was because of their income was not enough and 23% had a long-term health condition.

“Everyone is so friendly, non-judgmental and welcoming”

79%

of the people needing support were not earning and their income was from social security

17%

of people helped were aged 5 to 11

17%

lived in Harroway ward

48%

of households were single adult

17%

lived in St Mary's ward

In addition to essential items, we provided more than 3000 £5 vouchers for fresh produce in Andover market and helped those struggling to pay for fuel by issuing 22 vouchers.

We also distributed chocolate eggs at Easter, summer bags for the school holidays and hampers and gift boxes at Christmas. Together with our partner agencies we're reviewing these projects to make sure we use our resources to help those in most need in the best way possible.

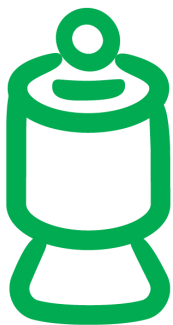
Working in partnership



We collaborate with more than 60 agencies who refer people in need of essentials to us. Our partners provide ongoing support to the people they refer and we also signpost to help and fund a caseworker from Citizens Advice at the Andover Foodbank. The caseworker tries to maximise people's income, review debt and help sort out issues such as housing problems. This support helps to reduce the need for people to re-visit the Andover Foodbank.

We also work with other local charities to support their work and we're part of a number of networks working together to provide practical support for people in our community.

Donations



We received nearly 70 tonnes of food and more than 8.5 tonnes of non-food and distributed nearly 65 tonnes of food and nearly 9 tonnes of non-food items.

The cost of operating the Andover Foodbank was over £120,000. Costs include three part time managers, premises, buying stock, market vouchers and funding a Citizens Advice caseworker.

Financial and stock donations were made by individuals, groups, companies, schools and churches across the community. These included Stannah, Simply Health, VP-AV Ltd, Co-op, Muddy Runners, Andover Soapbox Derby, TVBC and HCC.

Customers generously donated at supermarket collections and donated in permanent collection points at supermarkets and village shops in and around Andover. We're grateful to all those who donated or supported donations and to Abel & Cole for their weekly donations of fresh produce and Sunrise for their weekly donation of eggs

Looking ahead

We aim to increase signposting and encourage more people who receive help with essentials to seek advice from the Citizens Advice caseworker, and we will continue to review and adapt our operation to make it more efficient and sustainable.

The Andover Foodbank is a testament to the power of our community: it's all about local people working to end hunger together. We can only provide vital emergency support because of the generosity of local people giving time, food and money.

For more information about Andover foodbank, please get in touch

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