



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Winchester Basics Bank provides emergency food and clothes to individuals and families in need. It aims to make appropriate resources available to the maximum number of people at their point of need.

Charity Registration no: 1102470

Company no: 05005690

Winchester Basics Bank Report



Deuteronomy 15: 11 “There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land.”

Winchester Basics Bank is now 12 years old, and there have been many changes, representing growth and development, along the way. The past year has been no exception. We have new staff, new trustees and new volunteers. We are continually striving to achieve best practice in all that we do.

As always we are extremely fortunate that Winchester and the wider community is so generous and open-handed. The wonderful support we receive from so many individuals, churches, schools, businesses and community groups enables us to meet this growing need. A huge thank you to all who have helped us during the year through gifts of financial donations, food, Christmas presents, and giving time through volunteering. We are especially grateful to Waitrose who once again hosted a two-day collection focus. Over 60 crates of food were donated over the weekend. This is just one example of the incredible generosity of the people of Winchester.

We rely on our Harvest Festival Appeal to provide a major part of our annual food stock and around 60 churches, schools and other organisations supported us with harvest gifts this year. The two Sainsbury’s trolleys at Badger Farm and the city centre produce a regular weekly supply of food for our storeroom. Sainsbury’s have supported the project from the beginning and we are very grateful to them.

The Christmas season is always a time of great generosity and our thanks go to all those groups and businesses that donated the proceeds of special events and collections and to everyone who donated seasonal food, gifts or cash. Fareshare also provided additional edible treats such as yule logs, mince pies, chocolates and biscuits.



Once again we received a supply of children's presents from the Hampshire Chronicle and The Brooks Christmas Toy Appeal, and from Scarlett Aylen, a local school girl who also provided toys, all of which we distributed to needy families in time for Christmas. The clients were very grateful to be able to give such lovely gifts to their children, and all the donations made a huge difference to the families.

We continue to partner with FareShare who offer a wide range of tinned ambient and fresh produce, and with Abel and Cole who donate a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. All of these items are appreciated by clients, particularly families, and allow us to offer a great range of healthy eating options.

In a new initiative, Tesco stores are working with local charities to offer 'back of the store' food donations across Hampshire. We are now collecting from Tesco in Eastleigh once a week in addition to our existing collections.

We were very pleased to receive generous financial support from the local churches towards a fuel poverty scheme. We have already received a number of referrals for those in extreme crisis and unable to heat their home or cook the food we may have given them. This support is vital for the families it has served

We are delighted to have received a grant from the Rotary Club which will go towards the cost of hiring transport to allow us to collect and deliver food to our various locations.

Our volunteers



Our thanks go to our wonderful team of over 90 volunteers who make our clients feel so welcome, collect food, sort donations and serve us so well. We simply could not run the project without them

Throughout the year

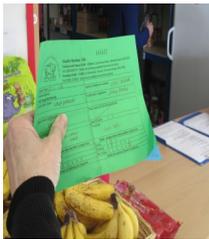
In the summer we, once again, ran the holiday lunch scheme for school aged children referred to us by local schools. Through the scheme we provided weekday lunch food over the six week school holiday break, which helped client families who were struggling to find extra meals out of term time. We opened on Monday mornings to allow families to collect the food at the start of the week, which proved very popular with all the families. Overall we saw a 3% increase in the number of meals provided. We supported 60 of 97 children referred

In September we held a food poverty workshop to focus on work done for us by Food Up Front, a local food security charity. The aim was to help Winchester Basics Bank to develop a strategy that would support the reduction of food poverty in our community. The event was attended by representatives from many of our partner agencies, members of local Government and other interested parties. We are keen to progress this later in 2016.

In November 2015 we launched our new city centre venue at Hope Church Winchester, which is located in the Middle Brook Centre, Middle Brook Street. We are temporarily located in the church reception area, whilst building work for a new extension takes place. We will then be housed in the extension which will become the permanent base for this satellite. Opening hours are currently

10:00am-12:30pm on Mondays. It is hoped that we will be able to increase the opening hours to 10:00am-15:00pm once we are settled into the premises.

At Milland Road, our main two day a week facility, we have been getting to grips with storage. Whilst this remains an issue we are seeing a gentle reduction in referrals, but as with many food banks we have plateaued at a high level of need.



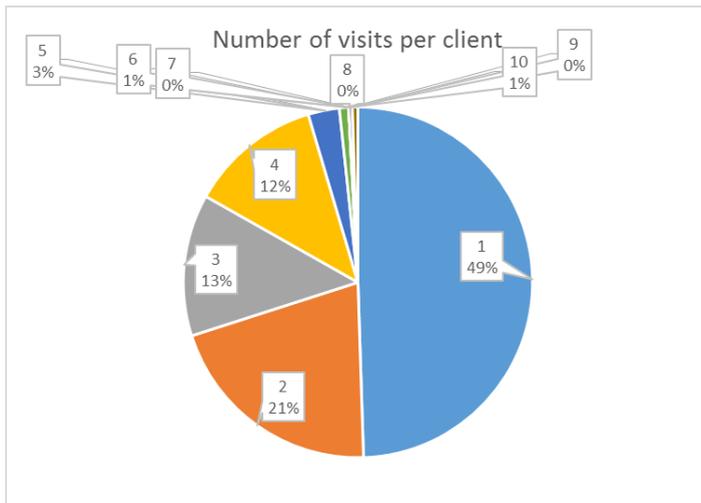
As we are now open 4 days a week across 3 centres we have revised our referral voucher to include details of all our opening times. Partner Agencies are also encouraged to collect data about why vouchers are needed, in order to ensure that clients get all the support they need. This reduces the need for multiple visits to the Basics Bank, and promotes a 'whole person' approach.

Facts and Figures

There has been a change in the demographic of clients; a 17% reduction in male clients, a 4% reduction in female clients and an increase in the number of children being fed. This is in part due to the success of the holiday lunch scheme, but we are seeing an increase in the number of families needing support

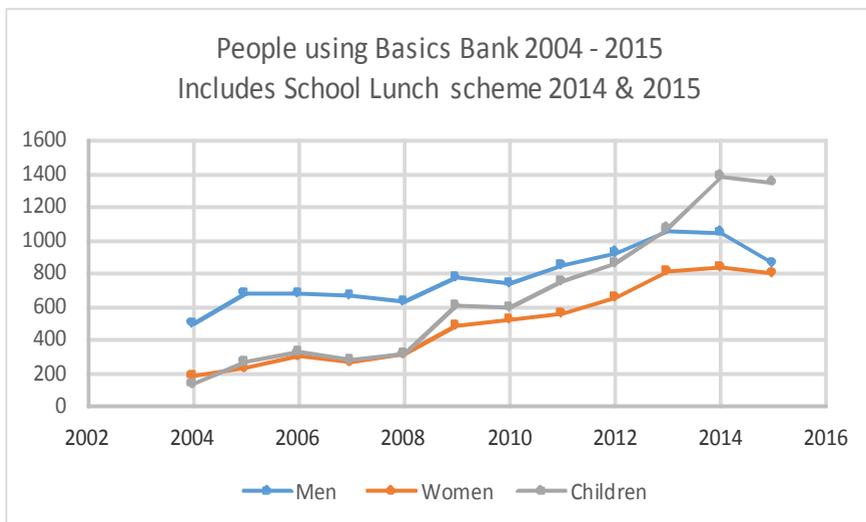
As the charts overleaf show, demand fell slightly in 2015. Just under 3000 clients were served with around 15,000 days of food. Although we have noticed a slight drop in the number of referrals we continue to see a significant number of families needing support.

70% of clients visited us once or twice in the year, (a 5% reduction on 2014 figures) suggesting that there is a slight increase in those clients needing longer term support.



Including the lunch scheme, around 670 families received support in 2015. This reflects the continuing effects of benefit changes and delays and financial pressures on families struggling to make ends meet.

The line graph shows figures (adjusted from 2014) to include the school holiday lunch scheme which, once again, proved popular and highlights the growing needs of families.



Personnel

Sadly we said goodbye to our Administrator, Liz Eastham, in the spring. Because the project is expanding we decided to enlarge the role and were delighted to appoint Janet Crick as our first Operations Manager in June 2015. Frances Rogers became our Project Manager. Both Janet and Frances have put in a lot of hard work and commitment, and have cheerfully coped with the extra demands.

There have been a number of changes to the board in 2015 and the first quarter of 2016. We were pleased to welcome Rev. Graham Topping in June 2015 and three new co-opted trustees, Mike Slinn, David Bartholomew and Mark Hall, all of whom now stand for election. Both myself and the Treasurer, Alison Pringle will be relinquishing our roles due to unforeseen family circumstances. Sue Broadbent, our Vice Chair will take over the Chair.

We are also saying goodbye to our two longest serving trustees, Geoff Meads and Viv Wheeler who are not standing for re-election, we are grateful to our outgoing officers and trustees for their years of valuable service and will miss them.

Lastly thanks go to all our trustees for their support and advice in guiding the charity to better serve those in need in our community.

Jean Hart

March 2016

Client Comments



“We were amazed at how many wonderful treats we had been given. It made our Christmas.”

“This is an amazing work that you do and you are all so kind. Thank you very much.”

“When we needed your help and support you made us feel welcome.”

Directors of Winchester Basics Bank 2015/16

Tony Atherton	Director
Sue Broadbent	Director and Vice-chair
Judith Cairns	Director
Jean Hart	Director and Chair
Andre Lewis	Director
Geoff Meads	Director
Alison Pringle	Company Secretary and Treasurer
Peter Smith	Director
Dariusz Szwajkowski	Director
Rev. Graham Topping	Director (co-opted Jun 2015)
Vivienne Wheeler	Director

Patron

Lord Raymond Plant

President

Canon Paul Townsend

Operations Manager

Janet Crick

Project Manager

Frances Rogers

Contact details:

Winchester Basics Bank

21a Penton Place, Milland Road,

Winchester, SO23 0PZ

Tel: 01962 855774

Mob: 07581 370020

Email: winchbbank@gmail.com

Web: www.winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk