

THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

CHARITY INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

CHARITY'S NAME

The Oswestry & Borders Foodbank

REGISTRATION NUMBER

1143519

ADDRESS

56 Beatrice Street
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY11 1QW

TRUSTEES

Kathryn Eleanor Davies (Secretary)
Malcolm William Harold Hubbell
Michael Stewart Jackson (Treasurer)
Andrea Irene Lee
Carl Trevor Rogers (Interim Chair)
Alison Baseley Utting

THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The Foodbank's Constitution was adopted on 20th June 2011 and amended (in respect of membership) on 12th June 2019. The Charity's objectives are 'the prevention or relief of poverty in Oswestry and Borders region by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty'. In pursuit of these objectives, the charity:

- provides food parcels to people referred to as being in need. To achieve this, the Foodbank has entered into relationships with local churches, shops and other organisations to collect food.
- hosts a number of organisations who provide help and guidance to clients, these include The Samaritans, Mental Health Service, Citizen's Advice and West Mercia Women's Aid, Adult Social Care and Veterans Support.
- provides small grants to people at risk of, for example, eviction or suspension of power supplies.
- partners with other agencies providing cash vouchers; such as Fuel Bank Foundation, Marches Energy Agency, Community Resource Grant, Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire's Welfare & Support Fund.

The Foodbank's work is made possible through the efforts of its volunteers. There are approximately 35 volunteers who work across different teams in stock, front of house, operations and deliveries. The Foodbank operates from three premises in Oswestry. No. 56 Beatrice Street is the registered address for the charity and houses the main administrative office as well as being the main food distribution hub. The Foodbank also rents the next-door premises No. 58 Beatrice Street which is used to support its collaborations with external organisations. In 2003, the Foodbank made a service level agreement with Citizens Advice for providing/ funding a financial inclusion worker for at least a period of three years, to support people with benefits, maximising income and other related issues in our work in ending the need for foodbanks. Unit 9 Radfords Field Industrial Estate is used for the storage of food stocks.

The Foodbank continues to make deliveries to those households who are not mobile or are unable to collect their emergency food due to costs of transport. The Foodbank has 6 volunteers who work in pairs, delivering to the outlying households. Volunteer drivers are offered mileage costs. Volunteers are also given a free lunch in the form of bought sandwiches, if they are working over the lunch period.

Initially, the Foodbank was wholly operated by volunteers. Some years ago, the Trustees took the decision to employ a part-time Project Manager. Subsequently an additional Deputy Project

Manager was employed also on a part-time basis. This enabled the Project Manager to devote more time to making grant applications and working with partner organisations. During the financial year 2023/24, an additional post was funded by a Trussell Trust (now known as a Trussell) grant for 'Organising and Local Mobilisation'. Due to ill-health, the post holder vacated this role, and the Foodbank refunded the unused portion of the grant in the financial year covered by this report.

The Foodbank currently works with 144 referral agencies, both statutory and other charities, to support households in need. Signposting and referring go both ways. These agencies include housing, children's services, GP surgeries, schools, the council, homeless, mental health and addiction services. Demands for help continue to be high, with 942 households being helped in the financial year 2024/25. 6,947 food parcels were issued during the year, 2434 of these going to households with children. Low income, physical and mental illness, as well as benefit delays and rising cost of essentials all contribute to the increasing need for the Foodbank.

Thanks go to New Life Church for the use of their upstairs rooms to pack Christmas hampers this year where 210 hampers were created using 1,597kg of food, toiletries and gifts for nearly 780 people including children.

The Foodbank's income dropped significantly from £217,962 in 2023/24 to £86,222. This occurred due to a decline in both income from grants and general donations, however the drop in grant income was the most significant. The figure for grant income is not, however, an exact indicator as the third tranche of the Trussell Financial Inclusion grant which would normally have been received in March 2025 was slightly delayed. The amount of this grant is £34,852.57. This drop in income did not affect the ability of the Foodbank to serve its clients as its bank balance at the beginning of the year was well in excess of the amount cited in its financial reserves policy. However, the Trustees recognise that the Foodbank will be unable to function if similar losses are incurred in the future and are therefore actively recruiting a Trustee with fundraising experience.

Last year this report noted a significant rise in the expenditure on food stocks and expressed the hope that the rate of increase would decline in future years. In fact, expenditure on food dropped by a considerable amount in this financial year. The Foodbank accepts donations of non-perishable food from several locations in the Oswestry and Borders area. These are supplemented by fresh food (e.g. bread, vegetables and milk) in the parcels handed out to clients. The fresh food is purchased from local supermarkets on the day. This year food donations have been at a level which has meant that there has been less need to purchase non-perishable items for food parcels.

The financial reserves policy agreed by the Trustees in 2022/23 requires them to maintain a reserve to the value of 50% of the projected yearly expenditure.

The trustees confidently believe that they have complied fully with the legal duty of having regard to public benefit, as set out in Charity Commission guidance.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 26th June 2025.

Carl Trevor Rogers (Interim Chair)

Kathryn Eleanor Davies (Secretary)

THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

		<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Grants (Note 1)		17,228		140,463
General Donations (Note 2)		68,994		77,499
		<u>86,222</u>		<u>217,962</u>
LESS EXPENSES				
Rent (Note 3)	23,775		13,800	
Utilities	6,774		6,565	
Insurances	1,308		1,253	
Salaries (Note 4)	41,079		43,571	
Food Stocks	45,065		72,374	
Christmas Hampers	11,830		9,720	
Client Welfare Payments	687		1,093	
Winter Fuel Payments	2,580		-	
I.C.O. Membership	47		35	
Citizens' Advice	29,434		26,159	
Office Supplies (Note 5)	3,274		2,503	
Volunteer Expenses (Note 6)	1,220		1,873	
Health & Safety Expenses (Note 7)	167		658	
Training	414		18	
Trustee Expenses	363		32	
Employee Expenses	1,076		456	
Accountancy fees	690		612	
Donations	-		50	
Grants	9,410		-	
		<u>179,193</u>		<u>180,772</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(92,971)</u>		<u>37,190</u>
Bank reconciliation				
Opening balance		244,522		207,332
Income less Expenditure		<u>(92,971)</u>		<u>37,190</u>
Closing balance		<u>151,551</u>		<u>244,522</u>
Funds Balance				
Restricted Funds		8,503		44,612
Unrestricted Funds		<u>143,048</u>		<u>199,910</u>
		<u>151,551</u>		<u>244,522</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**2025****2024****1. GRANTS**

	£	£
Trussell Trust	7,200	55,508
Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing	-	5,000
Marches Energy	500	-
Powys CC	4,298	1,510
Oswestry Town Council	5,000	8,000
The Neighbourly Foundation	230	-
Joseph Keith Burgess Foundation	-	30,445
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	40,000
	<u>17,228</u>	<u>140,463</u>

2. GENERAL DONATIONS

As noted in the Trustees Annual Report, general donations were 15% lower than 2023/24. Donations from standing orders grew substantially from £17,370 in 2023/24 to £27,727. The amount donated as a “one-off” donation either through bank transfer, cheque or cash was 30% smaller than in 2023/24.

The Foodbank Trustees are grateful to all donors for their generosity.

3. RENT

This year's rental figure includes an advance payment of £9,720 for the industrial estate unit. This covered a twenty-four month period from 1st September 2024.

4. SALARIES

	£	£
Gross Salary Project Manager	23,766	22,684
Employer's Pension Contributions	526	493
Adjustment re PAYE creditor	(58)	(181)
	<u>24,234</u>	<u>22,996</u>
	£	£
Gross Salary Deputy Project Managers	16,319	17,355
Employer's Pension Contributions	302	224
Adjustment re PAYE creditor	(239)	(145)
	<u>16,382</u>	<u>17,434</u>
	£	£
Gross Salary Campaigns Manager	-	3,267
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	36
Adjustment re PAYE creditor	463	(162)
	<u>463</u>	<u>3,141</u>

5. OFFICE/CONTAINER EXPENSES

Printing, Stationery & Postage	887	1,112
Shelving		-
Repairs, Maintenance & Consumables	388	415
Shredding	29	32
Kitchen Equipment	9	-
Room Rental	54	-
Broadband & Computer Costs	789	424
Furniture & Blinds	326	-
Supported Giving set-up costs	360	-
Capital expenditure - Laptop and printer	432	520
	<u>3,274</u>	<u>2,503</u>

6. VOLUNTEER EXPENSES

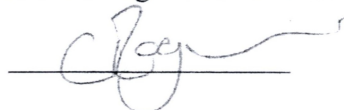
Gifts	253	405
Parking Permit & Parking	-	-
Counselling Services	-	-
Travelling Expenses	236	400
Volunteers' Meals & Expenses	731	1,068
	<u>1,220</u>	<u>1,873</u>

7. HEALTH & SAFETY EXPENSES


Hand Sanitiser, Masks, Screens & Hi-viz items	-	9
Fire Extinguishers & Services	167	492
Fire Exit Signs	-	12
First Aid Kit	-	145
	<u>167</u>	<u>658</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26th June 2025.

and were signed on its behalf by :



Carl Trevor Rogers (Interim Chair)



Kathryn Eleanor Davies (Secretary)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Simon Rivara BSc (Hons) FCCA CTA
Cadwallader & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants

Eagle House
25 Severn Street
Welshpool
Powys
SY21 7AD

26.8.2025


THE OSWESTRY & BORDERS FOODBANK

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>
CASH FUNDS	£	£	£
Current Account	8,503	143,048	-
INVESTMENT ASSETS	<u>Unrestricted assets</u> <u>Cost or value</u>		
Food Supplies		15,235	
Furniture and Equipment			
Second-hand freezer		200	
Trestle tables		400	
Shelving		3,500	
Weighing scales		400	
Kitchen equipment		800	
Plastic boxes and crates		300	
Anti-slip mats		1,000	
Sofa, footstool, coffee table & 4 chairs		1,600	
Second-hand stacking chairs		200	
As-new large privacy sofa		5,000	
Second-hand kitchen table		80	
Table and chairs		350	
Pictures		100	
Sundries		50	
20 shelving units		3,500	
Trolleys		200	
Paper bags		800	
Christmas items		1,500	
Office Equipment			
Printer 58		329	
Printer 56		300	
Computers		2,500	
Wi-Fi network disks		100	
Second-hand filing cabinets 58		150	
Filing cabinets 56		400	
Desk top stand-up desk		85	

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 26th June 2025.


Carl Trevor Rogers (Interim Chair)


Kathryn Eleanor Davies (Secretary)