

Trustees Annual Report Yearr end 31/01/2025 from Chair of Trustees Nick Bashford

Our core activity is the distribution of emergency food parcels and I am pleased to report that overall our 2024/25 use figures have reduced from those of the previous foodbank year.

Whilst it's important to report the levels of support we have provided we should never forget that these numbers represent real people living in our area needing that support. The fact that anyone has to rely on an emergency food parcel is a sad reflection of the times we live in.

During our last foodbank year we provided emergency food to 2,568 local people an 8% reduction on the previous year.

Sadly however, the number of children supported has increased from the previous year to 855 children reflecting the increase in the number of families referred to us for emergency food.

In total we provided 1,243 food parcels, 67% of which were given out from our Highbridge distribution point at Hope Baptist.

In simple terms these numbers equate to in excess of 23,000 meals – food that 2,568 local people would have gone without had our food parcels not been available

As always, my goal, & I believe the goal of all our team, is to be able to close this foodbank because it's no longer needed. Sadly, once again, despite an encouraging reduction in overall numbers, closure seems very far away.

We rely on the generosity of donors to support us. In common with foodbanks across the country we have seen a reduction in donated stock.

During the year we took in over 22,000 Kg of stock & distributed virtually the same amount.

We purchased 16% of our distributed stock. Food spend represented 25% of our total unrestricted income for the year.

The board of trustees regularly review our income and food spend and have no concerns about our financial capacity to

continue to meet current levels of need for emergency food support.

As you are aware our Foodbank does not actively fund raise, but we have received financial support from others for which we are very grateful. Our Treasurer will give more detail on all our financial matters in his report to the AGM.

At the end of the 2024/25 FB year our total cash funds managed across 3 accounts were £49,618

I would like to pass on the boards grateful thanks to our Treasurer for his clear and professional handling of the foodbanks finances. Also, to our Auditor for volunteering her expertise.

We continue to provide food primarily through referral from agencies linked to our foodbank such as Schools, Doctors, Health Visitors, Homes in Sedgemoor, probation and mental health workers, Citizens Advice and the Village Agent team.

The Village Agent team no longer attend foodbank sessions but are available in the Waffle Hub in Burnham during foodbank opening times and still work closely with us. In Highbridge they are now based in the Purple Spoon Café.

Myself, MB & AB have attended a series of community breakfasts networking with other organisations and community groups and explaining the foodbank referral process which was well received & increased understanding of how our foodbank works dispelling some myths along the way!

In April 2024 we entered into the 2nd year of our Financial Inclusion Project supported by Trussell Trust grant funding.

This project allows us to offer one to one advice & support to foodbank users around income, outgoings, debt and other matters associated with financial wellbeing to remove or reduce their need for emergency food support.

We are very grateful to DD & VE who have taken the lead on the project, & who have continued to liaise with Citizens Advice & TT over the year.

2025/26 will be the final year of Trussells funding for the project. The Trustees have given their agreement for DD to investigate alternative sources of funding to ensure we are in a position to continue the project in some capacity if the board so decides post April 2026.

Other services are available to our clients such as energy advice from onsite advisors. They offer both practical advice & financial support with energy bills. One client benefitted from a complete central heating re-fit including a new boiler, all free of charge from this service.

We continue to have access to SIM cards providing 6 months completely free data & calls which have been a huge benefit to some clients struggling to maintain internet connectivity

Our volunteers continue to signpost clients to other services available locally, many of which are on the premises in Burnham at the Methodist Church through the work of the Waffle Hub.

This year, following Trussells corporate re-branding we have changed our volunteer work-ware and foodbank signage. We have retained our foodbank “green” which has become recognisable in the town over the years. Whilst it’s beneficial, particularly for our front of house & collection teams to be easily identifiable, I think it’s fair to say our clients haven’t noticed the logo changes.

From the very start our foodbank we have been based at the Methodist Church and at Hope Baptist. We are very grateful to both Churches for the support they continue to offer.

The trustee board regularly consider this generous arrangement and maintain a reserve of funds to ensure alternative premises can be sourced should the need arise.

Looking ahead I am mindful of the forthcoming proposed changes to the country’s benefit systems and, as a board, we must be mindful of the potential impact on our service if these changes go ahead in their current planned format.

Trussell are actively lobbying against the most harsh of these changes, informed by foodbanks and their users across the

country. Trustees will receive regular updates in Trussells Network Update emails

In closing I'd like to give a very special mention to all of our wonderful volunteers without whom our foodbank would not exist. Some volunteers have been with us for many years, once people join us its unusual for them to leave!

We have now worked for a number of years with volunteers from Somewhere House. We welcome this partnership and have been blessed to meet and work with many of their clients. We consider this to be a very important part of our work within the community and look forward to its ongoing success.

Each of our volunteers play an individual vital role – including our trustee board.

No part of the foodbank works effectively unless all the parts work. If no one collects the food or manages the accounts or weighs and sorts the donations, or packs food parcels or looks after the compliance of our operation or makes the teas, our buys in stock or updates our data systems or or or Then our community doesn't have a foodbank to support them in challenging times.

Thank you all for the part you play – you make a difference.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Highbridge Area Foodbank

1147076

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| For the period from | Period start date 01/02/2024 | To | Period end date 31/01/2025 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Donations from Individuals | 6,036 | - | - | 6,036 | 7,400 |
| Donations from Organisations | 9,435 | - | - | 9,435 | 16,690 |
| Trussell Trust Financial Inclusion Grant | 6,750 | 45,000 | - | 51,750 | 50,932 |
| Interest Received | 787 | - | - | 787 | 13 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 23,008 | 45,000 | - | 68,008 | 75,035 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 23,008 | 45,000 | - | 68,008 | 75,035 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Insurance | 1,117 | - | - | 1,117 | 1,116 |
| Management Exp's/ICO/Miscellaneous | 77 | - | - | 77 | 35 |
| Equipment/ Mobile costs | 158 | - | - | 158 | 772 |
| Food/Bags/Vouchers | 5,792 | - | - | 5,792 | 11,338 |
| Volunteer Expenses | 212 | - | - | 212 | 864 |
| CAB Financial Inclusion | - | 56,346 | - | 56,346 | 33,217 |
| Donations to Churches | 9,000 | - | - | 9,000 | 15,100 |
| Marketing/Printing | 155 | - | - | 155 | 789 |
| Volunteer Clothing | 1,814 | - | - | 1,814 | - |
| Sub total | 18,325 | 56,346 | - | 74,671 | 63,231 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 18,325 | 56,346 | - | 74,671 | 63,231 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 4,683 | - 11,346 | - | - 6,663 | 11,804 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 45,245 | 11,038 | - | 56,283 | - |
| Cash funds this year end | 49,928 | - 308 | - | 49,620 | 11,804 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Treasurers Account | 8,818 | - | - |
| | 32 Day Notice Account | 20,518 | - | - |
| | Fixed Term Deposit Account | 20,282 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 49,618 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | Agreement Error | Agreement Error | OK |


| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|  | NT BASHFORD CHAIR. | 02/04/2025 |



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
HIGHBRIDGE AREA FOODBANK

On accounts for the year
ended

31/01/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1147076

Set out on pages

1-2

Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/01/2025. As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

02/05/2025

Name:

EMMA SHORE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTING

Address:

2 POPHAM CLOSE, EAST BRENT, HIGHBRIDGE TA9 4RY

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| |

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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