

Ledbury Food Bank

Lead Team Report November 2022

The last year has been the busiest in Ledbury Food Bank's ten year history and this has required significant changes in the way that we operate and the services that we offer.

The statistics to start with:

In 2021 we had 1762 visits to the food bank, we distributed 3865 food parcels and had 63 new visitors.

By the end of October 2022, we had 2052 visits to the food bank, we had distributed 5240 food parcels and there had been 86 new visitors.

At the beginning of 2021 we were supporting approximately 70 households every month, that figure has increased to over 100 in the last two months.

As you may recall from last year's report the figures had started to increase and we reminded you that in 2019 there had been just over 1000 visits to the food bank.

Unfortunately, it seems very likely that the number of people relying on the food bank will continue to increase in 2023. The cost of living and in particular the cost of domestic fuel are the main drivers of this increase.

The move to the new premises was about to happen when we reported last year and that happened in December 2021. Those premises have proved to be very popular with both volunteers and visitors alike.

As a lead team we have had to think of innovative ways in which to help people in addition to the simple provision of food and other necessities and to ensure that we have the funds to enable us to implement them.

We became a Talk Community Hub in 2022. This means that we are part of a wider community of organisations within Herefordshire and have access to the Talk Community website which helps us to advertise our offering more widely.

Other new (or revived) initiatives include:

- Cookery lessons for visitors
- The provision of cooking appliances to visitors*
- Providing supermarket vouchers*
- Obtaining fuel grants
- Obtaining a laptop for use by visitors when they come to the food bank
- School uniforms

These are in addition to the changes that we reported on last year.

*The funding for these initiatives has come from the Government's Household Support Fund. We had a grant of just under £9,000 in August and have just had a further grant of £24,500 this month to continue and expand that initiative over the next six months.

None of this work would be possible without the efforts of the volunteers. We currently have in excess of 65 volunteers who give their time to help those who come to us in need.

The increased number of visitors inevitably means that we need more food to give out. Donations of food have been generous throughout the year at the various collection points throughout the town and from schools, churches and individuals who bring them to the food bank. Local businesses have also made important donations. These contributions form a vital part of our offering, but they cannot meet the demand and we are dependent on weekly deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables and other staples which we have to pay for. The spending on these items has more than doubled this year.

Financial donations are vital to the continuation of our work, and we are enormously grateful to those individuals, businesses and organisations who have contributed to the food bank.

To enable us to continue and expand our offering we have been given free use of the office premises adjoining the main unit until March 2023 and are in negotiations with the landlord for a longer lease. We are fortunate that we have the support of a very generous donor who has agreed to pay the rent for the new unit for three years. We could not have contemplated this without that support.

The new unit will be used for storage of additional stock and items bought for distribution to visitors and for the storage and distribution of school uniforms. In addition, there is a room that will be used for meetings and as a consultation room so that visitors can be seen more privately.

The advice work that is carried out both through our contract with Citizens Advice and by our retired social workers is another important aspect of our work. To assist our own volunteers, we also have regular visits from representatives of Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Platform Housing and other organisations who can assist visitors with debt and housing problems. The new unit will enable this to be carried out more efficiently.

The next year is likely to be as challenging as 2022 but with the continued support of our donors and volunteers we are sure that the challenge will be met.

ML

24th November 2022

LEDBURY FOOD BANK
Registered Charity No 1159727

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
General Account (Unrestricted Fund)		
RECEIPTS		
Donations Gift Aid	19,267	17,261
Other individuals	27,453	
groups and corporate	8,016	32,989
Income tax refund on Gift Aid	see note	see note
Bank interest received	259	<u>5</u>
	<u>54,995</u>	
		50,255
PAYMENTS		
Food purchases	42,632	21,426
Hall heating	3	21
Room hire	60	2,706
Stationery and telephone	704	92
Information technology/website	801	1,700
Citizens advice	2,957	2,957
Rent	12,081	
New premises set up	9,758	1,500
Premises running costs	2,495	
Maintenance	3,110	
Equipment	425	
Training	400	
Volunteer expenses	223	42
Insurance	272	272
Bank charges	<u>87</u>	<u>133</u>
	76,007	31,451
Excess of payments over receipts on running c	- 21,012	18,804
Restricted Funds		
Community Fund income	5,000	
Community Fund expenses	4,396	
Balance carried forward	<u>604</u>	
Household support income	9,870	
Household support exp	9,895	
Balance carried forward	- <u>25</u>	
Community hub funding	1,557	
Community hub expenditure	1,392	
	<u>165</u>	
Platform Housing Grant	3,000	
Platform housing expenditure	<u>3,000</u>	
Surplus/(deficit)	- <u>17,268</u>	
ASSETS AT 31 OCTOBER 2022		
Bank current account	8,883	28,580
COIF deposit account	42,923	42,670
Cash in hand/net transfers	<u>2,310</u>	<u>134</u>
	54,116	71,384

Note Gift aid recoveries of £11,000 are outstanding



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Ledbury Food Bank

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st October 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1159727

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:

30th January 2023

Name:

Luke Keegan

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

Associate Member, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

Greendawn Accounting Limited

1A The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BN