
1. MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Over the 12 months in question, faced with an unprecedented pandemic, as a Foodbank, we wondered whether we could stay open, whether donations would dry up, whether we have to offer reduced amounts of food. The reality was none of that happened. Our staff and volunteers worked fantastically hard to ensure that we could continue to provide food and help to those who needed it. We found new sources of food, especially the generosity of Tescos, we found new sources of income - in terms of grants - we found new volunteers who wanted to use their time to help, and we did not have to close any distribution centre or reduce any size of food parcel.

At every level of our operation, we have a wonderful group of people who are committed to our vision of being a source of help to those in need and making sure no one in our community goes hungry. The Foodbank is its volunteers, whether serving in the warehouse, or one of our distribution centres, or picking up food from a collection point. The Foodbank is also the result of the generosity of our local community who donate food to share with others in the community.

The Foodbank is an expression of solidarity with one another, a recognition that everyone should have the basics in life. For those of us with a Christian faith in the Foodbank, we understand this as an expression of the Kingdom of God, in which we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves.

As the year ended, we have begun to ask new questions about how we continue to do what we do, but also to take steps to develop the service we offer in new ways.

Andy Goodliff,
Chair of Trustees

2. MESSAGE FROM PROJECT MANAGER

To say that the last year has been challenging, would be an understatement. In January 2020, we were still recovering from our busiest period that we've had so far. From Harvest to Christmas, is a manic time for Southend Foodbank. Donations and guest numbers always rise. The pressure of increasing heating bills, the pressure on people to spend on other things for Christmas also weighs heavily on those who are just about making ends meet.

In January 2020, we were planning on how to increase our fundraising and ramp up our community involvement. We wanted to give people different opportunities to volunteer and show them how they can make a meaningful contribution to ending the need for foodbanks. With that in mind, we had our first Action Day in March 2020. By the end of March, we were in lockdown.

As with the rest of the country, we were presented with new challenges. During this period, we were blessed with donations from our community, volunteers who stepped in for those who were shielding, monetary donations from church trusts, grant

foundations and corporate donations from supermarkets. In the midst of so much uncertainty, the community of Southend and Rochford gathered together to help those less fortunate.

Eastwood Distribution Centre became our 8th centre in January 2021. Based at Eastwood Baptist Church, they helped widen the circle of support in Southend and Rochford reaching more people in need.

As well as being a time of upheaval, it was also a time when generosity and community spirit outweighed lesser impulses.

Our volunteers put others before themselves in serving and helped us to remain open. Foodbanks are often called the fourth emergency service and it was evident during this time.

To all those who gave money and time and organisational help, those who drove for us, and packed boxes, our staff who worked many more hours organising and leading and taking 'phone calls from desperate people, thank you! Reaching out to those in need would not have been possible without every hour that you gave!

Thank you!
Natasha Copus,
Project manager

3. OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is to reduce hunger and alleviate poverty in Southend and Rochford. We do this through distributing food at our eight centres in Southend and Rochford. The food that we distribute is collected from community donations – people donate food at supermarkets, churches and during Covid; parking lots and on their doorsteps.

We also want to reduce the need for foodbanks. We work with referral agencies who work directly with the community. As part of the work they do, they issue vouchers to help people in crisis. Our guests then bring the vouchers to one of our centres where we fulfil them. Our aim is for them to work with agencies such as Citizens Advice, Christians Against Poverty and other agencies that can help their circumstances.

As part of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks, all this data is collated and goes to making real changes in policy that will help people.

4. OUR TRUSTEES

Our trustees have diverse skills and wisdom that they bring to leading the foodbank. As well as the skills they bring to our board, they also represent the churches we hold our centres at.

Andy Goodliff, our chair of trustees
Richard Sapsted, Hawkwell Baptist
Tom Vernon, Earls Hall Baptist
Steve Dalley, Ferndale Baptist

Melanie Venables, Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church (STBBC)
Sharon Watkins, Eastwood Baptist
John Honeyands, Sacred Heart and St John Fisher

6. OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have over 100 volunteers who give their time, energy and compassion. We have teams volunteering in our warehouse three times a week (four in peak times like Harvest and Christmas), teams run by our amazing co-ordinators in each of our eight distribution centres, a team of drivers for each of those centres that deliver the parcels from the warehouse to the centre, and drivers who pick up from churches, schools and supermarkets to bring to our warehouse. We also have ad hoc volunteers who volunteer at our supermarket collections. We also have a team behind the scenes who volunteer by staffing our info inbox, organise drivers, co-ordinate our referral agencies and vouchers, oversee recruitment and our fundraising co-ordinator who supports the foodbank in so many ways. Without these volunteers, we would have to close. We are so grateful for everyone who gives of their time.

In February 2021, we undertook a survey of our volunteers using Peakon. These were some of the comments:

Quotes from our volunteers:

“It feels good when we have a busy morning packing food boxes, as I know they are going to directly to support some struggling with food poverty.”

“Changes people's lives by supporting them with food, but listening and signposting are just as important. When appropriate we also pray for people.”

“Great being part of a team who are giving back to the community, worthwhile, challenging great team and leadership.”

“Working in the Foodbank is very rewarding. Well supported, friendly and well organised.”

“It's very rewarding, the people you work alongside are great too!”

“I love the fact that I am giving hungry people food, directly.”

On asked if they felt like they were making a difference, one volunteer said this: “Food signposting listening prayer loving our guests.”

Some of the comments were challenging, but these are also useful and we see it as an opportunity to make changes and improvements. A lot of the comments were about not knowing the overall vision of the foodbank apart from the day-to-day activities. This led, amongst other things, to the trustees, staff and volunteers sharing their vision for the foodbank, which led to us renewing our vision later in 2021 and being able to share that with volunteers.

7. WAREHOUSE REPORT

During the period of this Report the Warehouse avoided any outbreak of Covid cases and was able to stay fully open and functional throughout. Early strict Covid protocol procedures were introduced and steps were taken to reduce the number of day teams and volunteers

in the warehouse at any one time. The downside of this was that it put increased pressure on the Warehouse Coordinator who was present throughout.

As part of our volunteer care, a WhatsApp Group was established to keep all volunteers, active and shielding, informed of developments but also for the Warehouse Coordinator to maintain a dialogue to help any volunteer struggling during lockdown. It also meant when restrictions were lifted we were able to welcome back some volunteers into safe roles

As noted elsewhere the need for food support rose considerably during this period. However early mitigation work was put into place to assess stock levels, identify emerging product shortages and revise the pick lists in the event of a complete fall-off in donations. Thankfully this was not needed but remains as a fall back position should circumstances change.

The generosity of donors and national campaigns lead by Tesco's and Morrisons resulted in a significant increase in donations that eventually lead to the Warehouse having to take possession of 3 lock-up facilities at SafeStore leading to temporary stock management issues and the need for the long-term hire of a van to cope with frequent stock rotation placing further strain on the Warehouse teams.

Simon Carter
Warehouse Co-ordinator

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS

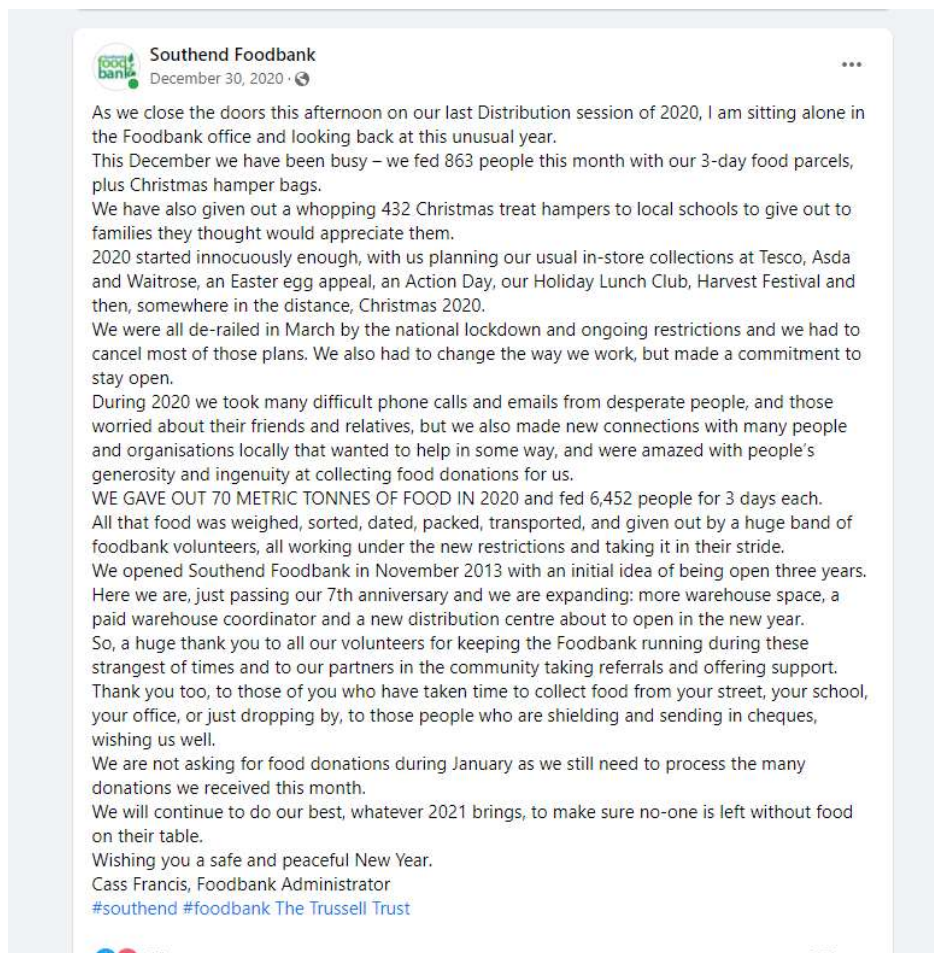
CHRISTMAS 2020

We usually add a bag of Christmas extras to our usual emergency food parcel, due to the amount of food we received, we decided to reach out to our school referral agencies so that they could give a bag of basics and extras to their families who are struggling.



Video showing the parcels:

<https://www.facebook.com/southendfoodbank/videos/868383457305891>



Quote:

The school delivered a parcel for a family that was isolating. We received a text from the recipient.

good evening hope I'm messaging the right place .. a food parcel was delivered to my home today (we are isolating as my daughter has Corona) and I'd just like to say thank you so much we are super grateful totally unexpected but so lovely merry Christmas to you all and thank you again xx

EASTER 2021

We knew that families were still facing huge difficulties feeding their children during the school holidays. We reached out to schools again and we had a huge response. We supplied 414 bags of basics to 23 schools in Southend and Rochford, including Easter eggs!

Feedback from one of our schools who received Easter bags.

‘They were amazing and such a help for our families.

We continue to offer FoodBank parcels to our families so this is not something that has gone away.

During that even more difficult time for our families I know these parcels made such a difference.

If you are able to offer this again, please count us in.

Best wishes,

Sam

Sam Nash


Home School Liaison/Deputy Safeguarding Lead

St. Nicholas School





Southend-on-Sea


Essex

SS2 4RL


 **Southend Foodbank**
March 27, 2021 · 🌐


This week we sent 414 'bags of basics' plus chocolate treats, to 23 local schools for them to give out to families they know that might struggle over the Easter holidays. Our fantastic volunteers spent Tuesday morning putting the bags together, then our driver volunteers delivered them. We've already had some feedback back from schools saying these bags have made a difference in people's lives. Thank you to all who volunteered to get this feat off the ground!





 Hannah Henley, David Eastwick and 57 others

3 Comments 7 Shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share



9. COVID RESPONSE

In March 2020, our team got together to make contingency plans. We looked at options if we didn't get any further donations as certain items were becoming scarce. Other decisions included making sure that our more vulnerable volunteers were shielding, volunteers were working in bubbles so that Covid would not spread among all our volunteers. This took place at our warehouse and the distribution centres.

We temporarily closed one of our quieter distribution centres so that volunteers could be deployed at the busier ones. Belle Vue Distribution Centre opened once a week for a longer session instead of twice a week. Our Ferndale distribution centre was closed and Steve Dalley, the minister and co-ordinator from Ferndale moved back to Belle Vue DC to run the operation there.

We changed the way we operated to a 'take-away' service. As more agencies had moved onto issuing e-vouchers, this became a more standard way of operating. Guests could give the volunteers their unique number and this was exchanged for food parcels.

Volunteers and guests adapted to the changes.

Special thanks go to Chalkwell Junior School who produced face shields for volunteers.

We also trialled the use of Banquet during this time. Banquet is an online donation platform where supporters could donate to them and they arrange wholesale purchases of the food we needed. Our community was as generous as ever, but as we were now receiving a large amount of food from Tesco directly, we decided to stop our subscription with them.

Our community responded in such a generous and selfless way. Leigh Tin Team was one such community response who donated food to us.

'Leigh Tin Team was the inspiration of a local teenager who, in April 2020, asked his mum (a teacher):

"What is the point of everyone standing on their doorstep clapping? Maybe we should ask them to put a tin of food on their wall and we could go along the road and collect them for the Foodbank once everyone has gone back inside."

Before long the idea had spread with collectors in over 50 roads - north and south of the London Rd. and from Hadleigh borders to Chalkwell.

Collectors sign up through the LTT website and receive a briefing 'blurb' and leaflets for their neighbours. Once they do their collection (weekly during the first lockdown in Spring/Summer 2020, now monthly) they decide which local foodbank to donate to; unfortunately there is a need for an ever-increasing amount of donations. Something that started as an emergency response to an international pandemic has become a sad fact of everyday life for too many in our local Southend community. Thankfully, people who are able to across Leigh (and in Thorpe Bay and Shoebury Tin Teams too) are supporting those experiencing food poverty/insecurity in our city.'

STBBC, one of our distribution centre venues, also saw the need and responded.

When the pandemic struck and the lockdown began we heard from lots of people in our community keen to donate to the foodbank and support our community. We'd met some of



Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity in England & Wales (no. 1163160)

Financial accounts

for the year

1st May 2020

—

30th April 2021

SOUTHEND FOODBANK CIO
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021

£s

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Receipts

Income was £55,959 higher than the previous year — at £142,803. Grants made up c.13% of total income, amounting to £18,834. This represents a significant decrease on last year (when grants made up almost half of income). However, several large donations were made to the Foodbank over the course of the year: many donations of £1,000 or more were received and the use of the Paypal and Facebook giving funds contributed over £23,000 to income. 40% of income was driven by donations under £1,000.

Payments

Expenditure also increased against the previous year — by £40,252 to £74,979. The main areas of increase were in Rent (up £19,080 from leasing a larger space to accommodate an increased size of operations, including the lease of several containers at an off-site storage facility), salaries (up £6,747 — most due to the employment of a warehouse co-ordinator), Fabric and Equipment (up £5,010 – from fitting-out this larger space with shelving etc.) and Food (up £5,355). Increases to expenditure in these four areas accounted for c.90% of the overall increase in payments. Salaries and Wages accounted for 33% of overall expenditure; Rent and Utility payments for 31%.

Funds

Many of the grants received in the previous financial year were restricted to a specific purpose; below is a summary of how these funds have been used over the past year:

<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
Project manager salary fund	0	10,555
Kitchenette fund	610	610
Clothing fund	57	277
Shed fund	1,140	5,500
Food fund	1,125	0

Additionally, three restricted funds were set-up and depleted fully within the current financial year (Warehouse co-ordinator fund: £3,868.80; Storage fund: £3,840.62).

<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
Reserves	25,000	25,000
General fund	112,070	30,237

Within the unrestricted fund, an amount of £25,000 is held in reserve, in accordance with the Reserve Policy. In total £137,070 was held in unrestricted funds at the close of the financial year; £2,932 was held in restricted funds.

Matthew Belcher, FIA
Treasurer

SOUTHEND FOODBANK CIO
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2021
£s

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Grants	10,000	8,834	18,834	39,686
Donations	121,967	-	121,967	39,831
Supermarket top-up	1,993	-	1,993	7,224
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
Other income	8	-	8	104
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	133,968	8,834	142,803	86,844
Total receipts	133,968	8,834	142,803	86,844
A3 Payments				
Salaries & Wages	11,451	14,424	25,875	19,127
Fabric & Equipment	5,414	4,580	9,995	4,984
Food	7,018	-	7,018	1,663
Mobile Phones	291	-	291	360
Stationery	305	-	305	392
Administration & Fees	777	-	777	1,006
Insurance	2,220	-	2,220	638
Rent & Utility Payments	20,040	3,841	23,880	4,800
Training	222	-	222	-
Publicity & Fundraising	603	-	603	997
Misc Other	3,794	-	3,794	761
Sub total	52,135	22,845	74,979	34,727
Total payments	52,135	22,845	74,979	34,727
Net of receipts/(payments)	81,834	- 14,010	67,823	52,117
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	55,237	16,942	72,179	20,062
Cash funds this year end	137,070	2,932	140,002	72,179

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	Lloyds Treasurer's Account	118,639	2,974	121,613
	Paypal	17,742	42	17,700
	Cash in hand	690	-	690
	Total cash funds	137,070	2,932	140,002
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B5 Liabilities				
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	
	Current		-	
	Long-term loans		-	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. **Basis of accounts:** these accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with Sections 132-166, Charities Act (CA 2011) for an E&W CIO
2. **Approval of accounts:** these accounts meet the threshold at which an independent examination is required in addition to approval by the Trustees.
3. **Guarantees and disclosures:** the trustees confirm, in accordance with Charitable Incorporated Organisation (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

The financial statement relating to the year ending 30 April 2021 are as approved by the Trustees.

Date:

24/2/22

Signed:



(Chair)

Andrew Gooduff

Date:

24/02/2022

Signed:



(Treasurer)

MATTHEW BELCHER



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

SOUTHERN FOODBANK CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

30 APRIL 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1163160

Set out on pages

2-4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/04/2021.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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:

MELVIN POOL

Date:

24/02/2022

Name:

MELVIN POOL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ACMA, CGMA

(if any):

--

Address:

107 LONSDALE ROAD
SOUTHEND - ON - SEA
ESSEX SS2 4LP

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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