



Southend
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Annual report

1 May 2024 - 30 April 2025

<https://southend.foodbank.org.uk>

Southend Foodbank is a registered charity in England & Wales (1163160). Registered address: Friendship House, 484 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-sea, SS1 2QA

Charity Details

- **Name of Charity:** Southend Foodbank
- **Registered Charity Number:** 1163160
- **Address:** Friendship House, 484 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-sea, SS1 2QA
- **Reporting Period:** 1 May 2024 – 30 April 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Southend Foodbank is governed by a group of trustees from each of the churches that host the foodbank and from founding churches.

Tom Vernon stepped down as chair of trustees in August 2024 and Kim Wright was elected as chair.

Trustees:

1. Kim Wright, chair of trustees
2. Matt Belcher, treasurer
3. Richard Sapsted
4. Helen Wall
5. Christine Harter
6. Melanie Venables



Message from our chair of trustees:

As a charity deeply rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus, our vision remains clear and unwavering: Working towards a hunger-free future.

For those of us involved with the Foodbank who share a Christian faith, we recognise God's Kingdom at work in all we do. Our mission continues to reflect our commitment to serving those in need:

Help for now : Providing urgent food support to those facing crisis.

Change for tomorrow: Offering practical help through signposting and financial inclusion initiatives.

Hope for the future: Equipping and empowering our community through organisation, advocacy, and mobilisation.

Motivated by Jesus' call to love our neighbour, we strive to serve with excellence and compassion. We are equally grateful for every staff member and volunteer—whatever their background or beliefs—whose dedication makes this mission possible.

Following a 64.6% increase in access the previous year, we experienced a slight decrease in numbers this year.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the hard work of volunteers and staff, and key grants, we've managed to keep pace with rising need. We've continued to provide three days' worth of emergency food across eight distribution centres, and expanded our services in meaningful ways.

This includes:

- Strengthened partnerships with Citizens Advice, offering in-person support at six of our busiest centres.
- Ongoing signposting to additional resources to help clients address the root causes of their crisis.
- Strategic outreach led by our Communication Coordinator, raising awareness of food poverty through print, radio, and social media.

I am truly thankful for the remarkable commitment shown by our staff, volunteers, and trustees. Your faithfulness and passion are what sustain Southend Foodbank's mission and allow us to stand alongside people in need with practical help and hope.

As we look ahead, it's clear that challenges remain. While donations from churches have fallen from 19,742kg to 18,513kg; but in the last financial year, we gave out 162450kg of food. This disparity highlights the importance of continued prayer, support, and action.

Despite the obstacles, we remain grounded in hope. We trust that through God's grace—and the ongoing generosity of our community—we will continue to be a light in dark places. Thank you for standing with us.

Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are helping local people in crisis.

Kim Wright
Chair of Trustees

Objectives and Activities

The charity's aims and objectives are to provide relief of financial hardship among people living in Southend and Rochford. We do this by providing 3 days of emergency food to people in crisis.

In this financial year, we fulfilled 7679 vouchers. We distributed a total of 18753 parcels of food, enough to feed 11590 adults and 7163 children.

Our financial inclusion project, funded by Trussell, means that we have a Citizens Advice advisor at 6 of our 8 distribution centres, ready to meet with guests to look into the root causes of their need for a food parcel.

We have also had a signposting co-ordinator, also funded by a grant, to increase the signposting capabilities of our volunteers so that signposting to further help can be given at every distribution centre. This is a direct benefit to the public in the form of the guests who we provide food for.



Achievements and Performance

- Key accomplishments during the reporting period: Providing enough food to feed 11590 adults and 7163 children.
- From April 2024 to March 2025, the Citizens Advice advisors at our centres made financial gains for guests of just under £400,000. This was through helping guests with benefits claims, charitable support, helping with bills and other income maximisation initiatives.
- Our partnership with Fuelbank Foundation that enables us to provide a fuel bank voucher to people on pre-payment metres so that they can heat their homes and heat the food that we provide them.
- Our partnership with Cadent which provides guests with information and extra support.
- Our partnership with Tesco Mobile that provides free calls, texts and data, so that people can be connected with their loved ones, be able to access online help, use data to connect with organisations like the Job Centre and the NHS, and society in general, where being online is a non-negotiable.



Impact on beneficiaries or the community

Quotes from our guests:

“People here are good. They know we aren’t asking for much and they do what they can to give us what we need like the food. There should be more help for them. Yeah, people should be doing more to help everyone but this is really good.”

“I didn’t know all this help was here to be honest. I was right at rock bottom and thought there wouldn’t be anything to keep us [her family] together. The boys were saying it would be better to go off to care so they could have the heating on. It broke my heart. But then a friend told me this was here and she comes. It took a lot for her to admit it, but she’s a good friend and she could see I was really hitting rock bottom. We came here together the first time I came here. Now I know it’s here I come when I really need it. [and how are the kids coping?] The heating still isn’t on too much and the flat is always cold but it’s easier when we’ve got some food in and the other help [indicating the advisors and extras] that helps too. I could say to them ‘wait, it’s going to get better’ or ‘don’t worry it won’t always be like this’. We’ve still got problems but it’s helped, you know, the food yeah but the other help and just knowing someone wants to help you.”



Challenges

- Lower donations of food – food donations dropped by 6%, so we received around 5 tonnes less food in the financial year than we received last year.
- We bought 12% more of the food that we gave out in this financial year.
- The percentage of food that we bought to give out vs the amount that was donated was steady at 53%. But in previous years, donations have outstripped purchased. This is a worrying trend.
- We have been fortunate to receive funding to purchase food but without that, we wouldn't have been able to meet the need.
- As part of our sustainability plan, we have recruited a community fundraiser, so that we can be less reliant on grant funding.

Plans for the Future

- Strategic goals for the next year: our strategy for the next year is to increase our sustainability through increased monthly giving from supporters. We will continue providing financial inclusion at our centres.
- We will continue to upskill volunteers so that they can signpost guests to further help within our powers eg Fuelbank foundation vouchers and free SIM cards to access further help online.
- We will continue working on a partnership model to offer further help at our centres and empower guests to access the help that is available in the rest of the community.





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

Financial accounts

for the year

1st May 2024

—

30th April 2025

SOUTHEND FOODBANK CIO
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2025
£s

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Income

Income was significantly lower than the previous year – at £265k vs. £488k last year. General donations made up 35% of total income, amounting to £94k. This represents a reduction on last year of 25k as the charity saw a continuation of the trend of lower donations. In addition, grant income was substantially lower than the previous year – at £164k vs. £368k. It should be noted that last year the Foodbank received a number of very large grants contributing to the £368k; comparison with two years ago shows £164k this year vs. £50k in the 2022-23 financial year.

The grants received this year included: £61k Financial Inclusion grant covering costs of Citizens' Advice advisors; £31k Sustainability Grant to fund a Fundraising Co-ordinator; £20k from the National Lottery Community Fund for food purchases; £11k from the Essex Community Fund to fund the Campaigns & Communications Co-ordinator plus additional for staff training; and £6k from Southend Emergency Fund for food costs.

Expenditure

Expenditure was at a similar level to last year – at £366k vs. £353k in 2023-24. Food purchases remained the largest expense – at £148k, which was 41% of overall spend. This expenditure on food was fairly flat vs. last year (£158k) as the charity continues to be required to supplement direct food donations with bulk purchases; around 50% of food given to guests is purchased by the Foodbank itself. Salaries and wages were up on the previous year at £116k (vs. £85k); this was as a result of hiring a Fundraising Co-ordinator following the award of a dedicated grant. Spend on fabric and equipment was down (£7k vs. £41k); the purchase of a van and costs to refit the warehouse in the previous financial year was the main driver of this.

Salaries and Wages accounted for 32% of overall expenditure; Rent and Utility payments for 8%; Food purchases for 41%; costs of Citizens' Advice advisors for 13%

Funds

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

Restricted Funds

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Augustine Courtaud	650	750	(1,400)	-	-	-
Essex Community Fund	-	11,000	(1,069)	-	-	9,931
Financial Inclusion	45,200	61,438	(46,208)	(200)	-	60,230
National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	(13,775)	-	-	6,225
Organising & Local Mobilisation	18,455	-	(15,925)	-	-	2,530
Postcode Places	907	-	(907)	-	-	-
Rosca	28	-	(28)	-	-	-
Southend Emergency Fund	2,000	6,000	(3,000)	(2,000)	-	3,000
Sustainability Grant	111,732	30,556	(122,952)	(762)	-	18,574
Strategic Resources	8,612	-	(8,612)	-	-	-
WBC	200	-	-	(200)	-	-
Total Funds	187,785	129,744	(213,876)	(3,162)	-	100,490

Of note in the movements listed above are the following transfers between funds:

From Fund (Name)	To Fund (Name)	Reason	Amount
Financial inclusion	General	Charged £200 less than expected by Citizens Advice so releasing funds	200
Southend Emergency Fund	General	Removal of fuel fund as outdated	2,000
WBC	General	Removal of fuel fund as outdated	200
Sustainability Grant	General	Laptop spend from previous financial year that had not been assigned to this grant	762


<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
General fund	49,013	107,475
Reserves	70,000	25,000

Within a designated fund an amount of £70,000 is held in reserve, in accordance with the Reserve Policy. These reserves ensure that the Foodbank can continue operating (covering payroll, rent, utilities etc.) for a period of 6 months in the event income falls sharply. The level of reserves held has been increased substantially by the Trustees over this financial year to reflect the increased payroll and rent/storage costs borne by the charity. In total £49,013 was held in a General fund at the close of the financial year; £70,000 was held in reserve and £100,490 was held in restricted funds.

Matthew Belcher, FIA
Treasurer

SOUTHEND FOODBANK CIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

	Southend Foodbank			Charity No	1163160	CC39a
	Annual accounts for the period					
	Period start date	01/05/2024	To	Period end date	30/04/2025	

Section A Statement of financial activities

Descriptions by natural category	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 3)		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Grants		34,038	129,744	-	163,781	368,463
Donations		94,471	-	-	94,471	119,914
Supermarket top-up		6,552	-	-	6,552	-
Gift Aid		-	-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	S01	135,061	129,744	-	264,805	488,378
Resources expended (Notes 4-7)						
Salaries & Wages		69,738	45,762	-	115,500	84,468
Project delivery		-	46,208	-	46,208	-
Fabric & Equipment		4,579	2,193	-	6,772	41,456
Food		30,425	118,037	-	148,463	157,853
Mobile Phones		783	431	-	1,214	968
Stationery		721	-	-	721	1,441
Administration & Fees		1,339	-	-	1,339	13,516
Insurance		3,089	-	-	3,089	4,733
Rent & Utility Payments		28,963	-	-	28,963	28,628
Training		673	-	-	673	1,213
Publicity & Fundraising		1,946	1,078	-	3,024	3,125
Misc Other		9,428	166	-	9,594	15,525
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
Total resources expended	S02	151,685	213,876	-	365,561	352,926
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	S03	(16,624)	(84,132)	-	(100,756)	135,452
Gross transfers between funds	S04	3,162	(3,162)	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)	S05	(13,462)	(87,294)	-	(100,756)	135,452
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on investment assets	S07	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S08	(13,462)	(87,294)	-	(100,756)	135,452
Total funds brought forward	S09	132,475	187,785	-	320,260	184,808
Total funds carried forward	S10	119,013	100,490	-	219,504	320,260

£s

Section B Balance sheet			
	Note	Total this year	Total last year
		£	£
		F01	F02
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets (Note 8)	B01	-	-
	B02	-	-
Investments (Note 9)	B03	-	-
Total fixed assets	B04	-	-
Current assets			
Stock and work in progress	B05	-	-
Debtors (Note 10)	B06	-	-
(Short term) investments	B07	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B08	219,526	320,341
Total current assets	B09	219,526	320,341
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	B10	23	81
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B11	219,504	320,260
Total assets less current liabilities	B12	219,504	320,260
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 11)	B13	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges	B14	-	-
Net assets	B15	219,504	320,260
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	B16	49,013	107,475
Designated funds	B17	70,000	25,000
Total unrestricted funds		119,013	132,475
Restricted income funds (Note 12)	B18	100,490	187,785
Endowment funds (Note 12)	B19	-	-
Total funds	B20	219,504	320,260

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure		
5.1 Trustee expenses		
Please provide details of the amount of any payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees. If no expenses were paid, please enter 'None' in the appropriate box(es).		
	This year	Last year
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	None	None
Nature of the expenses	None	None
Total amount paid	None	None
5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts		
Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).		
	This year	Last year
	£	£
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	None	None
Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	None	None

Section C		Notes to the accounts	(cont)	
Note 6		Paid employees		
Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.				
6.1 Staff Costs				
			This year	Last year
			£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind			109,899	81,967
Employer's National Insurance costs			2,073	-
Pension costs			3,428	2,500
Honoraria			100	-
		Total staff costs	115,500	84,468
6.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year			This year	Last year
			Number	Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work	Project Manager		0.7	0.7
	Warehouse		1.3	1.3
	Campaigns and Communications		0.8	0.8
	Signposting		0.3	0.3
	Administration		0.3	0.3
	Fundraising Co-ordinator		0.8	-
		Total	4.2	3.4

Note 11 Creditors and accruals*Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.***11.1 Analysis of creditors**

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year	Last year	This year	Last year
	£	£	£	£
Loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Amounts due to subsidiary and associated undertakings	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	23	81	-	-
Total	23	81	-	-

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

Please complete this section if the charity has any endowment or restricted income funds.

12.1 Funds held

Please give a brief description of any of the following type of funds held by the charity:

- permanent endowment funds (PE);
- expendable endowment funds (EE); and
- restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity (R).
- other funds .

Fund Name	Type PE, EE , R or other	Purpose and restrictions
Augustine Courtaud	R	Employee salaries
Essex Community Fund	R	Staff training, salary for Campaigns and Communications Co-ordinator
Financial Inclusion	R	Costs for Citizens Advice advisor plus their exxpenses
National Lottery Community Fund	R	Food
Organising & Local Mobilisation	R	Salary for Campaigns and Communications Coordinator plus fundraising allowa
Postcode Places	R	Employee salaries
Rosca	R	Employee laptops
Southend Emergency Fund	R	Food
Sustainability Grant	R	Salary for Community Fundraising Coordinator and additional hours for Signpos
Strategic Resources	R	Salary for Signposting Coordinator
WBC	R	Fuel vouchers

12.2 Movements of major funds

Please give details of the movements of the major funds summarised in the restricted and endowment columns of the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Augustine Courtaud	650	750	(1,400)	-		-
Essex Community Fund	-	11,000	(1,069)	-		9,931
Financial Inclusion	45,200	61,438	(46,208)	(200)		60,230
National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	(13,775)	-		6,225
Organising & Local Mobilisation	18,455	-	(15,925)	-		2,530
Postcode Places	907	-	(907)	-		-
Rosca	28	-	(28)	-		-
Southend Emergency Fund	2,000	6,000	(3,000)	(2,000)		3,000
Sustainability Grant	111,732	30,556	(122,952)	(762)		18,574
Strategic Resources	8,612	-	(8,612)	-		-
WBC	200	-	-	(200)		-
Total Funds	187,785	129,744	(213,876)	(3,162)	-	100,490

12.3 Transfers between funds

Please give details of any transfers between funds.

From Fund (Name)	To Fund (Name)	Reason	Amount
Financial inclusion	General	Charged £200 less than expected by Citizens Advice so releasing funds	200
Southend Emergency Fund	General	Removal of fuel fund as outdated	2,000
WBC	General	Removal of fuel fund as outdated	200
Sustainability Grant	General	Laptop spend from previous financial year that had not been assigned to this grant	762

12.4 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fixed assets

Investments

Net current assets

Creditors due in more than one year and provisions

Total net assets

Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowed funds £	Total £
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
119,013	100,490	-	219,504
119,013	100,490	-	219,504

Note 14 Additional Disclosures

The following are significant matters which are not covered in other notes and need to be included to provide a proper understanding of the accounts. If there is insufficient room here, please add a separate sheet.

The charity's primary activity is to provide food parcels to those in need. Food for these parcels is sourced roughly 50% through cash donations/grants recorded in these accounts and 50% through donations of food directly - though this fluctuates significantly over the course of the year. These direct food donations come from many different sources. With the limited number of staff/volunteers available to the Foodbank, it has not been possible to ascribe a value to this donated food - therefore, no value is recorded in these accounts. Note that the food donated is never sold by the charity.

Basis of accounts: these accounts have been prepared on an 'accruals' basis and accord with Sections 132-166, Charities Act (CA 2011) for an E&W CIO, as well as the Charities SORP FRS102 (2019a).

1. **Approval of accounts:** these accounts meet the threshold at which an independent examination is required in addition to approval by the Trustees.
2. **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.
3. The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis, which the Trustees believe to be appropriate. Following a review of the CIO's financial position – including a review of the cash flow forecasts and available funding for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts, the Trustees are satisfied that the charity has sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.
4. There are no related party transactions to disclose for the accounting period 1st May 2024-30th April 2025. No trustees, key personnel or connected parties received payments or benefits from the charity requiring disclosure under the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statement relating to the year ending 30 April 2025 are as approved by the Trustees.

Date: 19/02/2026

Signed:

Kim Wright

(Chair)

Date: 18/02/2026

Signed:



(Treasurer)



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 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1163160

Set out on pages

2-10

(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 30/04/2025.

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.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS
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:

M Pool

Date:

20/2/2026

Name:

MELVIN RAYMOND 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.

N/A



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 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1163160

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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:

M. Pool

Date:

20/2/2026

Name:

MELVIN RAYMOND POOL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ACMA, CGMA

(if any):

Address:

107 LONSDALE ROAD

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA

ESSEX SS2 4LP

Section B

Disclosure

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

N/A