

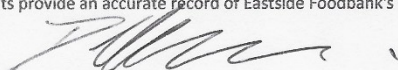
Swansea Eastside Foodbank
Final Annual Accounts 1st April 2024 – March 31st 2025

INCOME	Opening Funds	
	Funds at 1st April 2023	Funds at 1st April 2024
Bank balance B/F	£53,079.05	£50,990.53
Petty Cash	£0.00	£0.00
In hand	£0.00	£0.00
	£53,079.05	£50,990.53
Unrestricted funds		
Donations	23/24	24/25
Fundraising	£0.00	£927.45
Corporate Cash/Cheque	£232.42	£915.57
Personal Cash/Cheque	£8,425.00	£4,637.71
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	£8,657.42	£6,480.73
Restricted Funding Grants		
	23/24	24/25
Swansea Council Household Support Fund	£1,888.00	£901.00
Swansea Council Household Support Fund		-£390.00 refund
Swansea Council School Holiday Fund	£0.00	£600.00
Swansea Council Period Poverty Fund	£0.00	£814.00
TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME	£1,888.00	£1,925.00
TOTAL INCOME	£10,545.42	£8,405.73
Expenditure		
Unrestricted expenditure	23/24	24/25
Equipment	£2,095.98	£14.91
Repairs/Renewals	£0.00	£0.00
Utility costs to Chapel	£1,686.20	£1,836.46
Supplies	£8,042.97	£6,665.65
Sundries	£430.74	£339.85
Phone charges	£123.53	£145.32
Insurance	£254.52	£279.72
Unknown	£0.00	£0.59
Total unrestricted expenditure	£12,633.94	£9,282.50
Restricted Funding Expenditure		
	23/24	24/25
Swansea Council Household Support Fund	£0.00	£2,789.00
Swansea Council School Holiday Fund	£0.00	£600.00
Swansea Council Period Poverty Fund	£0.00	£814.00
Total restricted expenditure	£0.00	£4,203.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£12,633.94	£13,485.50
Net Inflow/(outflow) of funds	-£2,088.52	-£5,079.77
Refund Adjustment	£0.00	£390.00
Net Inflow/(outflow) of funds	-£2,088.52	-£4,689.77
Reconciled any cash		
Petty Cash	£0.00	£0.00
In Hand	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	-£2,088.52	-£4,689.77
Total in Bank at start of year	£53,079.05	£50,990.53
Total in Bank at the end of year	£50,990.53	£46,300.76
Difference	-£2,088.52	-£4,689.77

Note to the accounts:

Trustees have agreed to operate a reserve of £10,000.00 on the bank account. The bank account cannot drop below this level without the agreement of Trustees. This will ensure the Food Bank will have sufficient funds to continue to operate in the event of a reduction in donations and operate whilst trustees seek a solution to the funding issue

I confirm the above accounts provide an accurate record of Eastside Foodbank's financial transactions for the year 1st April 2024 – March 31st 2025



Swansea East Side Food Bank
A charity registered in England and Wales, number 1163300

Trustees Report 2024-2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

The name of the charity is SWANSEA EAST SIDE FOOD BANK
Registered number 1163300
The charity is based at
Mount Zion Baptist Chapel
94 Mansel Road
Bonymaen
Swansea
SA1 7JR

Section A

Trustees April 2024 – March 2025

Michaela Barratt (from November 2024)
Emma Davies (from November 2024)
David Edwards (Treasurer)
Mandy Evans
Christopher Lewis (Chair)
Paul Lloyd
Ashley Mansell
Kath Parry
Rachana Patel
Geoffrey Roberts
Peter Rogers

Section B

Structure, governance and management

As the charity is small and local, no formal training has been required for trustees as those who come forward have so far, been familiar with the role and are often experienced as trustees or similar roles. Should a new trustee request training we can provide this by training offered by the Swansea Voluntary Service Council with which our charity is in membership.

Trustee meetings are held at roughly quarterly intervals, any matters arising in between are usually dealt with by electronic communications.

Accounts are maintained with monthly reconciliation of income and expenditure against bank statements. We maintain one bank account within which a level of reserves is identified by agreement from time to time and which is used to hold restricted and unrestricted funds. The Treasurer and three other trustees are signatories.

Like many food banks, we work on referrals from support agencies. This is not always possible and discretion has to be exercised in allowing self referrals. We continue to work cooperatively a range of agencies to ensure needs are met, we can guide service users to sources of support in the locality.

The charity continues to be supported by donations of cash and goods from the local community, businesses, schools and churches though with the continuing cost of living crisis support has fallen off. Other sources of stock have come through the Neighbourly and Cwtch Mawr organisations.

Risks Identified:

Heath and Safety: - procedures require:

That anybody entering the building alone informs an appropriate person of their whereabouts;

That a minimum of three trustees / volunteers must be on hand before applicants are served; when a support worker collects parcels, this can be relaxed. There is a potential risk of bad behaviour by service users under the influence of drugs / alcohol but we have had no incidents in the last year.

General health and safety matters are monitored;

Insurance - the charity has its own public liability insurance for operations and product.

First Aid training for some volunteers has been provided

Tenure

This remains a risk, discussions have been proceeding with the Baptist Union Corporation as holding trustees, two section 119 valuations have been obtained both of which are beyond the means of the charity to meet without a major fundraising effort. It is hoped that as the charity was established under the aegis of a Baptist congregation that an accommodation can be reached. At the time of writing a new community interest company 'Better Bonymaen' was in course of establishment with aims to support community resilience and existing community groups including our food bank. It should give us access through collaborators such as Cwmpas and Down To Earth to expertise in bid writing and property management. If the premises are lost, then the charity will have to shut down as there is no alternative place from which to operate in the locality.

Data Protection

No computerized records containing client or volunteer details are kept and such minimal paper records as are maintained for the currency of an applicant's need are handled with care in use and kept under lock and key, so the risk of a data breach is low.

Any published statistics are anonymized.

Food Allergies

Service users are routinely asked if they have special dietary requirements. There may be some risk attached to ambient goods received from the Fareshare and Neighbourly charities. Allergy risks are normally indicated on packaging. We advise clients to check for themselves and an allergy / food intolerance advice sheet is included in each package.

Food Handling

Our principal food handlers have food safety qualifications. Training is allowed for in budgets and we will maintain this.

Safeguarding

Three trustees are trained to level 3 by virtue of their offices (councillors / accredited Baptist minister).

Theft

Thefts of food from food banks have been reported but so far we have not been targetted, the out of town location overlooked by private homes and improvement of the chapel boundaries as part of the betterBonymaen is helpful in this matter.

Reputation

We depend on the good will of our donors and for this reason we exercise care in giving assistance to discourage the abuse of our service or over dependence. Applicants referred frequently by single or multiple referees have their cases reviewed and the referees are contacted.

Sustainability

Volunteer recruitment was difficult after the pandemic but there has been some new interest in the last year. The trustee board is ageing and some key trustees are for reasons of health, finding it harder to keep up the essential administration of the charity and the collection of supplies by car.

Viability

The increased expenditure on stock and legitimate overheads (energy, insurance, consumables) is also a trend which could threaten continuing operations.

Social / Political / Economic

This is difficult to assess. There may be hardening of attitudes towards people who are not financially self sufficient, our impression is that the 'strivers and skivers' and anti-immigrant memes are becoming more prevalent with the rise of populism. Though this is anecdotal, people say that food price inflation means that they are less able to support the food bank and slow growth in the economy and general stringency makes us wonder of government / local authority grants which support some of our work will be reduced or discontinued.

Section C**Objectives and Activities**

The object of the charity remains to operate a food bank in the eastern part of Swansea.

The objective is achieved by gathering donations of foodstuffs and donations of cash. Foodstuffs are sorted, rotated and distributed to applicants referred by agencies (as above). Appropriate action is taken to dispose of any unfit or out of date foodstuffs to prevent their consumption.

Food stock is supplemented through the Neighbourly organisation redistributing LIDL supermarket surpluses and some customer donations, non food items, toiletries etc. have come through Cwtch Mawr, redistributing surpluses and returns from on-line marketing.

We review what we offer to applicants from time to time, mainly in relation to supplies. We are still having to buy in quantities of food as donations have fallen off.

We consider that these activities are conducted with regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional Information on Objectives and Activities

The strength of the East Side Food Bank is its volunteer body. It is a community activity harnessing the social capital of the by its open policy, skills, talents and expertise, experience of working in public office, common sense and good will.

The charity holds a level 5 food hygiene rating which we will do our best to maintain. In the last year we have reinforced our system of stock rotation for this reason.

Stock management and distribution is highly organised to minimise waste. A great deal of attention is given to maintaining stock in good condition and its rotation with the disposal of any unfit stock. To reduce environmental impact, we sort recyclable waste.

Food banks are often referred to as a 'sticking plaster' measure. We have always tried to signpost people to help with the causes of their crisis. We continue to do this and are seeking to play a part on a wider effort towards the relief of poverty and community resilience.

In September 2024 the Natural Law Project funded by the Welsh Arts Council under the Connect and Flourish initiative came to an end. The objective of this had been discover and develop initiatives for community resilience in line with the 2015 Future Generations Act (Wales). As mentioned above, at the time of writing the continuation body, the *betterBonymaen* CIC is coming into being. Further funding is being sought in conjunction with Swansea University for various programmes of social research. Our association with the University Law Clinic continues and we have also strengthened contacts with local schools.

The restoration of the chapel garden as part of the Natural Law / *betterBonymaen* project continue is providing some fresh vegetables for distribution and has generated some interest in gardening for edibles. Food security and energy security are among the aims to the project.

We would like to distribute more fresh produce but regular supplies and storage have proved difficult.

We are monitoring progress on the development of around 150 social housing spaces on brownfield sites, the impact this may have on us remains to be seen.

Section D

Achievements and Performance

- Comparison of statistics over the year shows demand has remained broadly level.
- As mentioned before, donations from our loyal donors have diminished and we are still using cash to top-up by purchase, this is evident in the financial section of the report.
- By cooperation and inter-working with statutory bodies and other third sector organisations have secured grants, supplies and training. We also do our best within limited resources to signpost service users to sources of support and help.
- The dedication of our volunteer team is admirable, bringing knowledge, skills and life experience to what they do with a genuine concern for a functional and supportive community. We are inclusive, we have become to an extent, a multi-racial, faiths and no faith group. This was always the aspiration. It is our impression that the locality is becoming more ethnically diverse. Language barriers with service users can be overcome translation apps on smart phones.
- Being 'embedded' in the community in this way seems to engender a sense of ownership by the community and it may make our operation more approachable for those who need our help. We continue to receive appreciative feedback on the empathy of our team, the efficient organisation of our service and flexibility by which we can respond to some if not all emergencies.
- We welcome year 5 / 6 pupils of Ysgol Gynrad / Pentrechwyth / Primary School with joint supervision by teachers as part of a work experience programme.
- We continue to seek effective ways of getting help to where it is needed. Consequently our local community secondary school Cefn Hengoed holds stock for immediate distribution to families in need as do Pentrechwyth School and our Community Centre at times of need. We also supported two initiatives at our community centre Bonymaen Kids Play Initiative and another for social contact for older people with basic foodstuffs as both provide for people experiencing shortage of food.
- We ran a successful programme part funded through Swansea Council and in conjunction with local schools to support families through the summer holidays when free schools meals are not available, the level of need put a strain on our resources. This however underlines the continuing need for a food bank in the locality.
- We referred some service users for additional help through Faith in Families (Church in Wales) periodic offers of food vouchers.

- We received a visits from The Lord Mayor of Swansea and Jeremy Miles AS /AM Cabinet Secretary for Heath and Social Care with Mike Hedges AS/AM along with local councillors in the Welsh Government in the course of the year, they expressed themselves impressed at the level organisation of our operation which can be directly attributed to our trustees and volunteers.
- Some of our trustees have taken on the task of bid writing with gratifying success.
- There is some communication with service users in Welsh.

Section E Financial Review


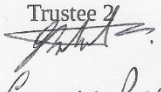
See Treasurer' s Report.

Section F Optional Information

We constantly monitor communications for potential sources of gifts / funding to add value to what we offer.

Section G - Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	Trustee 1 	Trustee 2 
Full name	Ashley Mansell	Geoffrey Roberts
Position	Volunteer	Volunteer
Date	23/09/25	23/9/25.