

HUNSTANTON AND DISTRICT FOODBANK
TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

INTRODUCTION

1. Hunstanton and District Foodbank is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under Charity Number 1164060 and governed by our Constitution dated October 2023. Our official address, which is also our operational base, is St Edmund's Church Halls, Church Street, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 6BE. Our financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March.
2. The following served as trustees during this year:
 - Samuel Abramian
 - Elaine Coker
 - Mark Fuchter
 - Garry Langham
 - Howard John Norman
 - Kelly Stevenson

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND RECRUITMENT OF TRUSTEES

3. Hunstanton and District Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's nationwide network of over 400 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our communities. We are a relatively small foodbank and we cover the northern part of North West Norfolk as far south as Dersingham and West Newton.
4. Trustees are recruited by placing adverts locally, inviting applications from volunteers who are asked to provide information about relevant skills and experience and sign that they meet eligibility criteria set out in our Constitution. No external persons or bodies are entitled to appoint trustees. Trustees review the applications and invite candidates for an informal interview. New trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution at a formal meeting.

During this year:

- Howard John Norman resigned as a trustee on 11 July 2024, but remained as Treasurer;
 - Kelly Stevenson was appointed as a trustee with effect from 11 July 2024.
5. All trustees work on an unpaid and voluntary basis. At least one trustee attends each operating session, ably supported by a total of 15 volunteers who work on an informal rota system.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

6. We aim to relieve people in Hunstanton and the surrounding district who are suffering acute financial hardship by continuing to:
 - provide emergency parcels containing a minimum of three days' nutritionally balanced non-perishable food, plus toiletries and household items where

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needed, to individuals and families who have been referred to us by a support agency. This is managed by a system of foodbank vouchers, issued by that agency and used by us to organise the parcel and for accounting purposes. We will also provide emergency parcels for those who have been unable to obtain a referral but are temporarily in extreme hardship.

- provide top-up funds where clients are facing an imminent loss of their domestic energy supplies. We opened an account with Charis Grants Ltd, a platform for online vouchers that enables us to support clients not on pre-payment schemes. We also accessed £950 of grant funding from the Cadent Foundation for energy support, which was disbursed by the FI support worker as it was to be used in conjunction with providing advice.
- facilitate and work closely with the British Red Cross Financial Inclusion support worker under a 3-year joint Trussell / BRC pilot which started last year. Its aim is for clients to reach a point where their income meets their needs, and they no longer need food parcels. The focus is on clients accessing all entitlements, debt being under control, and money being managed: budgeting, reducing costs and putting aside savings - as well as wider advocacy and support.
- signpost clients to agencies who can provide appropriate advice and support. However, the timely intervention by other support agencies in our area remains a challenge. In practice, the FI support worker can act as a link to further specialist support.
- work with our local primary and secondary schools to support families in need. We provide food vouchers at the end of each school term to the families of local school students in receipt of free school meals, to help with the additional costs over the school holidays. These vouchers are redeemable at two of our High Street shops. In term time we fund the provision of breaktime fresh fruit for the primary school students. Both Hunstanton schools can refer families to the foodbank.
- explore opportunities to provide additional support. In this year we were successful in securing a substantial grant of almost £23,000 from Norfolk Community Foundation's Community-based Hardship Support Fund for a project to support hard-up and barely managing families of students at Hunstanton and Brancaster primary schools over the summer holidays. We used an online voucher scheme to provide grants through the school holidays and a one-off energy voucher during winter that was extended to families of students at Docking school. We also funded some back-to-school uniform and stationery items through this project.
- maintain our agreement with a local charity shop who will provide free clothing for a foodbank client upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from a foodbank trustee.
- maintain close links with Hunstanton Town Council's "Helping Hands Hub". This enables us to refer respective clients to each other and enables clients to access support agencies who regularly attend the Hub. The Hub also included the Coastal Community supermarket, a "pantry" scheme selling

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cut-price groceries, until the service was discontinued in August 2024.

- maintain food collection points in two local supermarkets, in many of our local churches and elsewhere.

RESULTS IN 2023-24

Table 1: Emergency food parcels: summary of latest 3 years

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Total no of Parcels	508	549	939
- Provided to Adults	338	384	591
- Provided to Children	170	165	348
Stock (nearest Kg)			
- Out	5,753	6,365	10,286
- In	5,466	6,958	9,964

Summary of Activities

- The number of emergency food parcels continued a downward trend since Covid and the fuel bills crisis of winter 22-23, though the number to children increased slightly. Overall, 66% of the parcels went to households with children. 52% of the households using the foodbank did so for the first time, whilst 59% of households only used the foodbank once in this year. This was the first full year of the BRC Financial Inclusion support, and we believe that this has had a positive effect, reducing the need for some clients to fall back on the foodbank.
- The top reasons given by support agencies for referring clients to the foodbank mirror the national picture, namely:
 - The rising cost of essentials;
 - The ongoing impact of an adverse health condition;
 - Priority debt reducing money left for essentials;
 - Delays in receiving benefits.
- Energy top-ups by the foodbank totalled £1,630 (23-24: £970, 22-23: £2,700) in addition to energy grants disbursed by the FI support worker.
- Ongoing support to local families via schools came to £10,460 in High Street vouchers and a further £931 on daily fruit for primary pupils.
- The summer support project funded by the NCF grant provided £120 per family in grocery and energy vouchers over the 6 weeks of the summer

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holidays for 131 families, plus a further £2,918 on uniform and stationery. The second phase provided a one-off £25 energy voucher from November 2024 to 148 families at Hunstanton, Brancaster and Docking primary schools. The total cost of both phases, including fees, came to £23,003.

12. We continue to benefit from the sustained generosity of our supporters who donate the food, groceries and money that enable us to operate. Harvest Festival remains an important time and we are grateful for the impressive efforts of local churches and schools in supporting us. Donation of stock, however, continued the downward trend, mirroring a wider picture among foodbanks. We spent £901 this year on purchases to maintain stock levels.
13. We are fortunate to receive significant financial donations from corporate bodies, local businesses and individuals, including those who donate monthly. We also received grants of £2,500 from the Borough Council of KLWN and £560 from Hunstanton Town Council, a donation of £700 from a Sea Shanties evening held at Docking Church in April 2024 and substantial donations totalling £9,280 from Chiplow Wind Farm.
14. Our wonderful volunteers prepare the emergency parcels, ensuring we have a number ready to go out at an instant. In doing so they sort and stack all donations, carefully checking every *Use By* and *Best Before* date and then stacking in date order, as we only distribute in-date food. They also collect the customer in-store donations from Hunstanton Sainsbury's every week.
15. Outreach activities this year included an annual event where we meet a group of social science students from the University of East Anglia, together with Councillors running the Helping Hands Hub, to share our perspectives on rural deprivation and loneliness and how community support can help. Informal talks included one to the Hunstanton Guides group. We also provided regular briefings at the Church of England Deanery Synod to update them on the nature and level of local poverty and our efforts to address it.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024-25

Table 2: Summary of Hunstanton and District Foodbank Accounts (nearest £)

Operations Account	Income		Expenditure	Operating surplus	
2024-25	£97,827		£93,909	£3,918	
2023-24	£28,238		£22,567	£5,671	
Reserves					
Opening bal.	1.4.2024	£65,716			
Closing bal.	31.3.25	£69,634			

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16. The higher receipts and payments figures reflect receipts and payments in relation to the FI support worker. Figures included all restricted and unrestricted funds. Further information is in the attached accounts.
17. The Trustees' reserves policy, updated and approved in July 2024, is to maintain a minimum of £12,000 operating funds for resilience and disaster recovery, ensuring we can still provide ongoing support during unforeseen and catastrophic events. The above balances also include sums earmarked for future payments in relation to the Financial Inclusion pilot.
18. Hunstanton and District Foodbank has no debts. We do not act as custodian trustees in any respect. We have given no guarantees that create an extant potential liability at this time.
19. In managing how the foodbank pursues its aims and objectives set out above the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.
20. In conclusion, the trustees wish to reinforce our gratitude for the generosity of every one of our donors, of funds and of groceries, and all those who respond so generously to events such as the harvest festivals. Donors' generosity means we can step in when people run out of food, have no money and so face going hungry. Too many people locally remain trapped in poverty, some in poor health. In winter it can be "heat or eat" so providing top-up funds for energy bills has become a normal part of the support we offer. We remain committed to doing our best in support of those most in need in our area.

Sam Abramian

Chair of Trustees, Hunstanton and District Foodbank

15 January 2026

HUNSTANTON AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK - CIO Number 1164060

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last Year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Donations	20,978	-	20,978	26,623
Gift Aid	1,156	-	1,156	1,057
Sub total	22,133	-	22,133	27,680
Grants				
Trussell	13,058	36,134	49,191	-
Norfolk Community Foundation	-	22,902	22,902	-
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	2,500		2,500	
Hunstanton Town Council	560		560	
Sub total	16,118	59,036	75,153	-
Investment income				
Bank interest	540	-	540	558
Sub total	540	-	540	558
Total Gross Income	38,791	59,036	97,827	28,238

Payments

Charitable Payments				
DBS Checks				58
Donations				300
Energy Vouchers	1,630	20,085	21,715	970
Food and Toiletries	901	-	901	550
Food Vouchers	10,460	-	10,460	13,330
General Expenses				416
Information Commissioners Office (ICO)	35	-	35	35
Insurance	330	-	330	244
Phone and Broadband	670		670	806
Printing and Stationery	-		-	18
Red Cross	-	53,212	53,212	12,453
Repairs and Maintenance	75	-	75	240
Rent	2,500	-	2,500	1,830
School Goody Bags		-	-	889
School Snacks	931	-	931	1,579
School Stationery	-	202	202	-
School Uniforms	-	2,716	2,716	-
Training				1,140
Volunteers Xmas Meal	163	-	163	163
Total Gross Expenditure	17,694	76,215	93,909	35,020
Net of receipts/(payments)	21,098	(17,179)	3,918	(6,782)
Cash funds last year end	27,151	38,564	65,716	72,498
Cash funds this year end	48,249	21,385	69,634	65,716

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Barclays Community Bank Account	48,249	118	48,366	26,598
Barclays Premium Bank Account		21,267	21,267	39,117
Total cash funds (Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	48,249	21,385	69,634	65,716



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of**

Charity Name **HUNSTANTON MND DISTRICT
FOOD BANK**

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 MARCH 2026

Charity no.:

1164060

Company no.:

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended **31/3/2026**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

~~The company'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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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:

Michael B. Warnes

Date:

31 MAY 2018

Name:

MICHAEL B. WARNES

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

A.C.I.B

Address:

16 HALL CLOSE, HEACHAM

KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK PE31 7JT

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.