



Annual Report

2023 - 2024

Registered Office:

St Barnabas Church & Community Centre, Hurstville Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 8DH

Email: info@chorltondidsbury.foodbank.org.uk

Website: chorltondidsbury.foodbank.org.uk

Tel: 07938 191038

Chorlton Didsbury Foodbank is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No: 1177999

Registered in Eng. & Wales

Chair's Introduction

The period 2023-2024 has again been busy, with a steady number of people accessing the Foodbank and new project starting.

We continued to operate from the Hall at Christ Church West Didsbury, and St Barnabas Church Chorlton, with face-to-face sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively. We also have operated a deliveries session from Christ Church.

Supplies: Most stock is received into and processed at Christ Church, with further storage at Barlow Moor Community Centre. For periods during the year we found a need to purchase stock more frequently. Overall, whilst we purchased a greater proportion of the stock we needed the actual weight purchased was less than the previous year. We still need to explore other sources for food purchases, from such places as wholesalers, but due to the generosity of donations from individuals and organisations we have managed to meet demand.

New work: Prior to 1st April 2023 our Project Manager had been working with the other 5 Trussell Trust Foodbanks in the City of Manchester Area and the Trussell Trust to enable a Financial Inclusion Project to begin in this new financial year. This project became reality in 2023 – 2024 with Citizens Advice advisers embedded in our face-to-face sessions. *More on this later in the Report.*

Governance: Our board of Trustees meetings take place every 2 months. Prior to each, an operations team meets, with at least two Trustees, Project Manager and volunteers present. This is to keep good links between the operations planning and the Trustees' more strategic roles.

Our Trustee numbers remained static this year with Ann Meadowcroft, Owen Lloyd and Brid Seery being happy to stand for a further 3-year term to September 2026, and the board agreed to this. The board continues to have 8 out of a possible 9 Trustee positions filled, continuing our capacity to appoint one more. We recognise in the current climate that we have done remarkably well in having such numbers of Trustees.

10-year anniversary: The first session of Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank was at the end of March 2014, so we also had the 10th Anniversary of Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank to mark in March 2024. Trustees agreed that this anniversary should be marked, but agreed a celebration was not appropriate. So on 20th March 2024 volunteers and trustees were invited to a lunch event to thank our volunteers and acknowledge all their work over the years. We recognised the founding volunteer Project Manager, also 4 volunteers who were still actively involved at the Foodbank.

Recognition: We could not continue to serve our communities without our greatest assets – people:

- those who donate – known and unknown to us;
- those who give generously of their time and energy - our volunteers;
- our employees - project manager and project worker who continue to work well together and who appreciate, encourage and motivate our volunteers; during the year our Project Worker completed her first full year of employment with us, and our Project Manager completed her fourth year.
- and not forgetting our Trustees.

Without all of these, we would not be able to serve as many people in need as we do. So - a Big **Thank You** to all.

Phil Gay

Chair of Trustees

Public Benefit:

It is a requirement that a Charity reports on how it has met its obligations

The Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank was set up with the aims of *the prevention or relief of poverty in Chorlton and Didsbury and the surrounding areas by:*

1. *the provision of emergency food supplies*
2. *providing support, signposting and assistance*
3. *promoting healthy eating by offering other activities such as meal planning and budgeting courses, to individuals and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.*

This report is to describe how the Foodbank has been meeting those aims during the year, and how trustees, staff and volunteers work to ensure these objects remain central to all our activities.

What the Foodbank has done:

Over the year the Foodbank has -

- **received 1,348 referrals** –
- from **over 100 referral partners** including from local groups, Citizens Advice, medical practices, housing associations, churches and schools,
- **provided food parcels** (just slightly fewer than in 2022-23) representing over **2,300 adults** and over **1,300 children**; each food parcel is comprised of **3 days' food** for the household, based on Trusell Trust guidelines, and
- **operated 3 times each week** throughout the year.

The Foodbank operates on a referral system, so agencies and other referrers assess the client's need, and then notify the Foodbank.

We come across the view that many clients visit for a food parcel every week, but this is not the situation. Over half (54%) of clients visited just once; others needed to visit 2, 3 or a few times. During this period of an acknowledged cost of living crisis, almost half of our clients visited for the first time during the year. When the person arrives at the Foodbank they are met by a volunteer who welcomes them, and offers somewhere to sit and have a drink. They have an opportunity to chat and relax while they wait as the food parcels are prepared.

During the period of Covid19 lockdowns when the Foodbank could not have clients in the premises, we began to deliver food parcels to some people. The Foodbank has continued to deliver food parcels one day per week for some people who are housebound, or unable to carry the parcels.

Donations of food and essential items:

During the year 23 tonnes of stock was donated to the Foodbank, and we bought a further 2 tonnes (proportionately more than we have had to buy in previous years). We receive donations from a variety of sources – including individuals, schools, churches, corporate bodies. The annual 3-day collection at Tesco Didsbury Parris Wood boosted stock levels for the winter. Throughout the year we also had collection points in several local supermarkets.

In addition, at the end of the financial year we received support from both Morrisons and Sainsbury's supermarkets in the form of vouchers; these will be spent during 2024-2025.

During the last 2 years we have all been conscious of the ongoing cost of living crisis impacting local people, donors - the Foodbank and its community. This has contributed to starting new areas of work:

Financial Inclusion / Citizens Advice Project:

After our Project Manager working on this initiative for many months, our Financial Inclusion Project began in 2023-2024, the premise being that food poverty is not an isolated issue and many people could gain from independent advice. To address this, funding was received from the Trussell Trust for a joint project between Manchester Trussell Trust Foodbanks and Manchester Citizens Advice for their advisers to attend Foodbank sessions to speak confidentially with Foodbank clients.

For our Foodbank, advisers were embedded in the face-to-face sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays. The advisers' work has enabled 166 Foodbank clients who wished to take up this opportunity to address the causes of their need for an emergency food parcel, e.g. by checking if income can be increased or debts dealt with. Over £100,000 of financial gains was identified during the year.

After identifying the benefits from this project, further work was initiated around how this service could be accessed by Foodbank clients who were unable to go into one of those sessions.

Winter Warmers:

As everyone became more and more aware of the cost of living crisis during 2022/23 another project was started by the Foodbank – "Winter Warmers". Funding was gained from the Trussell Trust for the purchase of extra items that would help people keep warm over the winter, such as fleece blankets and hoodies, food flasks and hot water bottles. This carried over into 2023/24, when a further 71 items were bought and distributed. In addition, about 100 fuel vouchers were distributed.

Volunteers – without them the Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank would not exist. Tasks include -

- setting up the sessions;
- speaking with clients, ensuring they are comfortable by offering a drink and a chat;
- offering the opportunity to talk with a Citizens Advice adviser;
- delivering food parcels to clients who are unable to get into the sessions;
- collecting donations from collection points;
- sorting, checking, dating and organising stock;
- putting together the appropriate food parcels;
- being involved with the Food Collection days within the supermarket.

To keep service open, 33 people volunteered at the Foodbank during the year. In addition, 8 people gave their time as Trustees of the organisation, carrying out the responsibilities of running a charitable incorporated organisation.

The Foodbank has been supported throughout the year again by Christ Church West Didsbury and St Barnabas Church Chorlton, through use of the Church Halls for our sessions.

Trustees during the year April 2023 to March 2024:

P Gay	Chair	P Lee
J Williams	Treasurer	O Lloyd
B Seery	Minutes Secretary	A Meadowcroft
K Grand		J Midgley

Project Manager: K Ursell

Project Worker: J Rolfe

The Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank is a member of the Trussell Trust.



Key foodbank data for Financial Year 2023/24

Clients

- **1,348** vouchers fulfilled +7.4% on previous year
 - 1,042 collections, 360 deliveries
- **3,630** people fed – **2,315** adults, **1,315** children
- **48%** of clients visited for the first time
- Clients were referred by **103** referrers

Donations

- **25,289** kilos of stock donated -15% on previous year
- **9%** of stock had to be purchased – unfortunately more than ever before

Other help offered...

- We now have Citizens Advice advisors in all sessions
 - **166** people accessed advice
 - Over **£100k** financial gains identified
- Approximately **100** fuel vouchers were issued
- **71** Winter items were given out eg fleece blankets

Chorlton and Didsbury Foodbank
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Unaudited Financial Statements
31st March 2024

Diane Riley
The Broughton Trust
Humphrey Booth Building
Heath Avenue
Salford, M7 1NY

Chorlton and Didsbury Foodbank (CIO)

Year end 31st March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Chorlton and Didsbury Foodbank (CIO).

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Chorlton and Didsbury foodbank (CIO) (the Charity) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

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 all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.
3. 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Diane Riley

Address: The Broughton Trust

Humphrey Booth Centre

Salford, M7 1NY

Date: 30.07.2024

Year end

Income

	Actual 2023/2024	2022/23 actual
Regular donations - direct	£ 6,406	£ 6,847
Donations via GoldenGiving	£ 19,204	£ 25,611
Other donations	£ 3,846	£ 6,933
Trussell Trust/ Tesco	£ 2,821	£ 3,566
Grants Mcr City Council	£ 1,000	£ 2,000
Trussell Trust/Winter Cost of Living	£ -	£ 5,000
ASDA grant		£ -
TT & Citizens Advice Project	£ 5,781	
Donations towards posts	£ -	£ -
BMCA winter support	£ 500	£ 500
Other	£ -	£ 110
Totals	£ 39,558	£ 50,568
Outgoings		
Room hire	£ 6,865	£ 6,865
Equipment	£ 2,191	£ 1,417
Premises costs (maintenance etc)	£ 215	£ 157
Salary & on-costs	£ 32,113	£ 25,139
Recruitment		£ 95
Stationery, inks etc	£ 217	£ 470
Software	£ 236	£ 80
IT Support/Security	£ 110	£ 117
Telephones & Wi-fi	£ 867	£ 1,037
Fees (incl exam of accounts)	£ 305	£ 645
Insurance	£ 368	£ 298
Travel Expenses	£ 95	£ 83
Advertising materials	£ 128	£ -
Activities - food	£ 4,000	£ 2,324
Activities - additional	£ 709	£ 4,275
Fundraising costs	£ -	£ -
Sundries	£ 443	£ 861
10th Anniversary and Volunteers Week	£ 1,098	
Training	£ 160	
to Petty Cash	£ -	£ -
Totals	£ 50,120	£ 43,863

Year end 31.3.2024

Income £ 39,558
Outgoings £ 50,120

Bank balance 1st April 2023 £ 85,397
Bank balance 31st March 2024 £ 74,534



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Chorlton and Didsbury Foodbank CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1177999

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

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 Charity'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

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:

Date:

~~30th~~
19.7.2024

Name:

Diane Riley

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

Address:

The Broughton Trust, Humphrey Booth Centre, Salford, M7 1NY

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.