



Registered Charity 1189302

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025**

**The Forest of Dean Baby Bank**

Registered Charity No. 1189302

**Registered Address:**

Unit 5, Eastern United Site, Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, GL14 3AW

# Trustees

- **Anne Lamacraft** – Chair and Safeguarding Officer
  - **Chris Hedges** – Secretary and Logistics Manager
  - **Asiza Tait** – Treasurer and Operations Manager
  - **Linda Grindle** – Communications Officer
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## Objectives and Activities

### Our Purpose

The Forest of Dean Baby Bank exists to support families across the Forest of Dean who are experiencing financial hardship. We provide essential baby items and equipment, alongside good-quality second-hand clothing for children from premature sizes up to 15 years. We also assist families with the cost of school uniform for both primary and secondary schools within the district.

### Our Values

We are committed to equality, inclusion, and dignity. No individual or family is excluded from our services on the basis of age, gender, health or disability, pregnancy or maternity, sexuality, family status, ethnicity, culture, religion, belief, or financial means. We work in partnership with schools, GP surgeries, children's centres, health visitors, midwives, and social care professionals to ensure support is accessible to those who need it most.

### How We Operate

The Baby Bank is entirely volunteer-led, with nine active volunteers supporting donation sorting, parcel preparation, and delivery where required. We have no paid staff. Volunteers are reimbursed for delivery mileage.

We do not undertake activities with children without their parent or carer present. Parents and carers remain responsible for their children's welfare at all times. Volunteers are supported within a clear organisational structure and are encouraged to use their initiative. Our volunteers are essential to the success of the charity.

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# Review of the Year 2025

## Funding and Financial Support

During the year, we received grant funding from Forest of Dean District Council, Save the Children, the Tesco Groundwork Fund, and the Co-operative Fund.

Forest of Dean District Council again entrusted us with Household Support Funding. Two grants were awarded: one covering May–August 2025 and a second covering January–March 2026. Funds were received in December 2025 and are reflected in this year's accounts. As in previous years, Tesco Corporate Gift Cards were used to distribute the food support element of this funding.

## Support Provided

Demand for our services continued to increase throughout the year. We spent over £9,000 supporting families with school uniform costs, reflecting a significant rise in the number of secondary school pupils assisted, where uniform items are often compulsory and supplier-restricted.

In addition, we distributed over £12,000 in grocery vouchers to hundreds of families. Rising food costs continue to place significant pressure on household budgets, and this support remains vital.

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## New Initiatives

In 2025, we expanded our outreach by visiting baby and toddler groups across the Forest of Dean. These visits enabled direct engagement with parents, the distribution of essential items such as nappies, wipes, toiletries, and baby food, and increased awareness of the Baby Bank's services. This approach has proved highly effective and will continue, with seasonal visits planned to ensure families can access appropriate clothing year-round.

We also hosted three Pop-Up Shops in partnership with FVAF volunteers. These events were very well attended and will be developed further in the coming year.

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## Fundraising

Fundraising activity increased significantly during the year under the leadership of the Chair. Through community engagement, including raffles, pub quizzes, and donation points placed across the Forest of Dean, local businesses and residents have continued to show strong support for the Baby Bank. We are extremely grateful for this generosity, which enables us to respond to growing levels of need.

## Service Demand and Growth

The number of parcels distributed has continued to rise year on year:

- 2020 – 272 parcels
- 2021 – 409 parcels
- 2022 – 573 parcels
- 2023 – 1,057 parcels
- 2024 – 1,283 parcels
- **2025 – 1,692 parcels**

Detailed monthly data on referrals, children supported, families assisted, and bundles distributed is provided in the table below, demonstrating sustained demand throughout the year.

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## Service Delivery and Impact

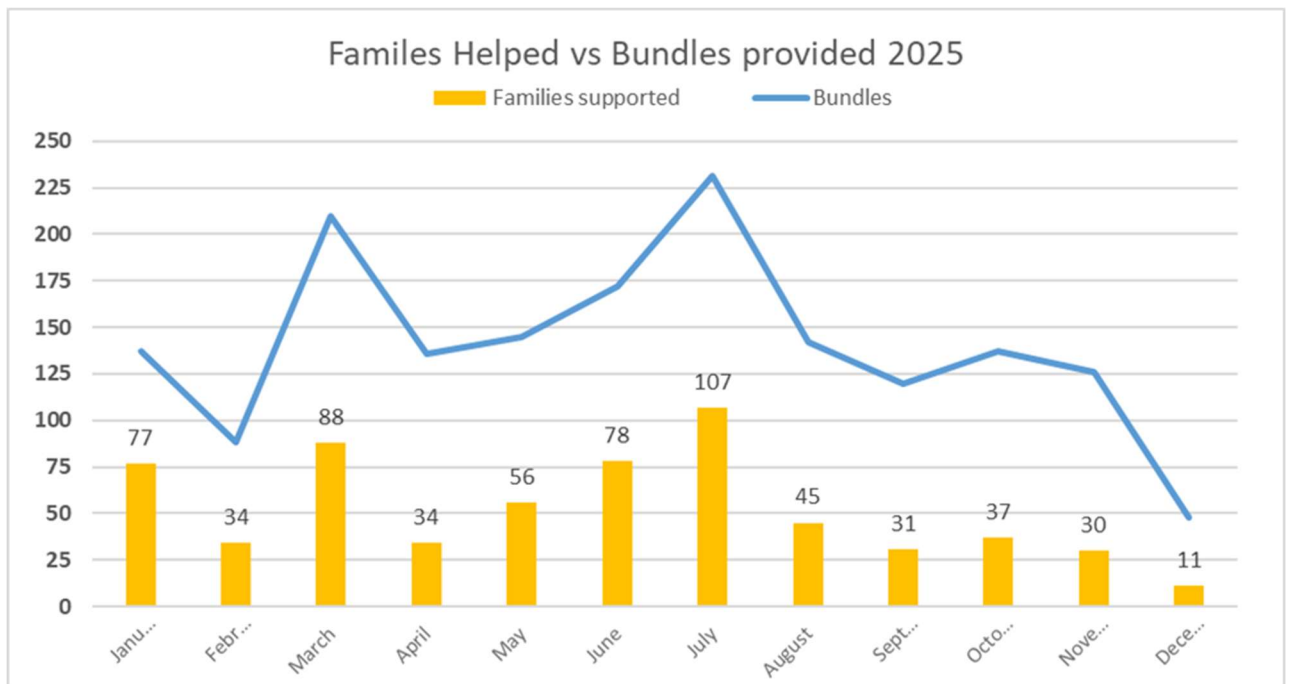
During 2025, the Forest of Dean Baby Bank supported a **total of 628 families**, providing essential items to **1,078 children** across the district. Support was delivered through **1,692 individual bundles**, reflecting sustained and growing demand for our services throughout the year.

Referrals were received from both **self-referring families** and **professional partners**, including schools, health services, and social care, demonstrating both community awareness of the service and strong confidence from statutory and voluntary sector referrers. Of the total referrals, **772 were self-referrals** and **386 were professional referrals**, highlighting the accessibility of our support while reinforcing its role as a trusted early-intervention service.

Monthly data shows consistent need across the year, with particularly high levels of demand during the summer and early autumn months, aligning with increased pressures linked to school holidays and the cost of school uniforms. The steady volume of support provided throughout the winter months further reflects the ongoing financial strain faced by families in the Forest of Dean.

This data evidences not only the **scale and reach** of the Baby Bank's work, but also its **responsiveness to local need**. Each bundle distributed represents timely, practical support that helps families meet essential needs, reduce financial stress, and improve outcomes for children.

	Self Referred	Professionally Referred	Children	Families supported	Bundles
January	62	21	107	77	137
February	50	4	57	34	88
March	98	26	136	88	210
April	74	6	63	34	136
May	66	50	141	56	145
June	64	83	135	78	172
July	100	88	188	107	231
August	75	30	81	45	142
September	53	17	55	31	120
October	46	38	58	37	137
November	50	21	41	30	126
December	34	2	16	11	48
	<b>772</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>1692</b>



# Conclusion

The Trustees believe that the Forest of Dean Baby Bank continues to meet its charitable objectives effectively and remains well-placed to respond to increasing levels of need within the community. We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, funders, partner organisations, and supporters for their continued commitment.

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**Yours sincerely**

**The Trustees  
Forest of Dean Baby Bank**

Website: [www.forestbabybank.org](http://www.forestbabybank.org)  
Email: [yourbabyfod@outlook.com](mailto:yourbabyfod@outlook.com)



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Forest of Dean Baby Bank

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1189302

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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

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:

*Derek Broom* FCCA

Date:

24/2/26

Name:

DEREK BROOM

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

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

Fairways, Lansdown Walk, BREAM  
Glos GL15 6NE



**Forest of Dean Baby Bank**  
**Registered Charity 1189302**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**1st JANUARY-2025 to 31st DECEMBER 2025**

	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		
Grants Received	43,687.59	
Donations	4,898.50	
		48,586.09
<b>FUNDRAISING INCOME</b>		
Forest Lottery	191.50	
Cash Back Rec'd	42.37	
Vinted fundraising	21.50	
General Fundraising income	88.01	
		343.38
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>		
Miscellaneous receipts		606.10
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>49,535.57</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>		
Baby Essentials	5,012.07	
Items bought for families	2,244.87	
Groceries bought for families	12,777.51	
Clothes and school uniform	11,169.35	
Toiletries (Children+Adult)	1,056.68	
Other Costs	9.30	
		32,269.78
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>		
Rent and Business Rates	721.00	
Repair & Maintenance	156.15	
Insurance	320.00	
Heat and Light	510.50	
Office Expenses	880.27	
Volunteer expenses	855.62	
Website	-	
Subscriptions	159.79	
Delivery Costs	1,694.76	
Donation to charity in lieu of audit	50.00	
Safeguarding costs	31.70	
Equipment	442.13	
		5,821.92
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>38,091.70</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(LOSS) FOR PERIOD</b>		<b>£11,443.87</b>

Cash at Bank and in Hand b/f  
Surplus for Period  
**Cash at Bank and in Hand c/f**

£ 21,376.66  
£11,443.87  
**£ 32,820.53**





CHARITY COMMISSION  
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