

# Grantham Foodbank

## Registered Charity Number 1195874

### Annual Report for 2023

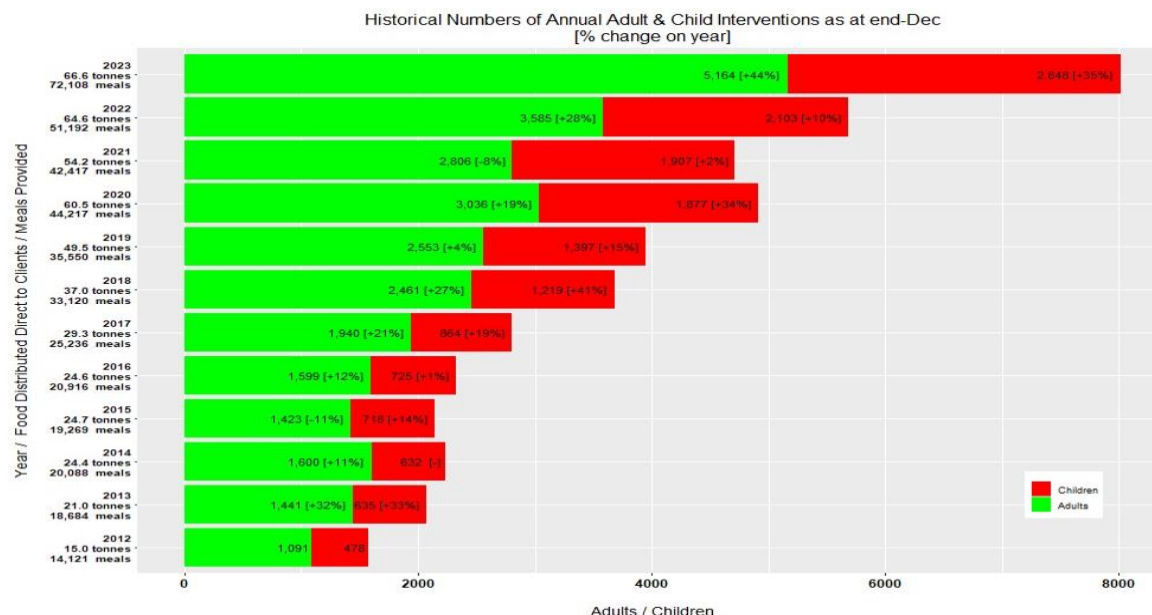
#### Summary

Foodbanks provide emergency food, collected from within the local community, for distribution to local people in crisis. Grantham Foodbank was launched on 1st July 2011 as a Charitable Association. From September 2021 the original charity transitioned to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association Model). It was developed under the auspices of Churches Together in Grantham and District and is part of the national foodbank network seeded by the Trussell Trust.

In its full twelfth year of operation (January-December 2023) Grantham foodbank has received, 63.4 tonnes of food - of which 19.1 tonnes was purchased (2022 – 64.0 tonnes - of which 6.1 tonnes purchased). We distributed 66.6 tonnes (2022 – 64.6 tonnes ) directly to clients. This provided 3 days of food to 5,164 adults (2022 – 3,585 adults) and 2,848 children (2022 – 2,103 children) in crisis. The number of registered agencies issuing vouchers during the year was 69 (2022 – 60).

Of the 3,728 vouchers fulfilled in 2023, 1,895 vouchers were issued to single clients (2022, 1,044 an increase of 82%). The Trussell Trust does not require clients to be identified by gender but we estimate this group is made up of 26% women and 74% men.

The growth in the provision of food since its launch is demonstrated in the following graph.



The Department for Work and Pensions publishes monthly statistics for the number of people on Universal Credit in each Job Centre Plus district. 62.5% (55.0% in 2022) of all food vouchers fulfilled in 2023 were issued by Grantham Job Centre Plus .

Throughout 2023 the number of people on Universal Credit at Grantham Job Centre Plus has been steadily increasing to a new peak of 6,453 (5,932 at end 2022)

## **Highlights of the Year**

### **Food Collections**

Incoming food to the warehouse totalled 63.4 tonnes (64.0 in 2022) including :

- 33.6 tonnes (41.1 in 2022) from the public,
- 3.1 tonnes (8.7 in 2022) from commercial companies
- 4.5 tonnes (7.4 in 2022) from supermarket collections
- 19.1 tonnes (6.1 in 2022) purchased.

Included in the 'donations from public' section is the local 'Harvest Festival' collections and the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' appeal, which was featured on The One Show.

### **Food Distribution**

Total food distribution was 67.7 tonnes (66.8 in 2022) with 66.6 tonnes (64.6 in 2022) going directly to clients.

### **Other Foodbank Services**

#### **Fresh, frozen, toiletries, and pet food**

In addition to the standard food parcels we have been privileged to be able to distributing frozen bread, supplied by local stores and bakeries (a big thank you to Bloomsbury bakery), along with fresh milk and potatoes (courtesy of the NFU). Our relationship with MARS continues, who help with donations of pet food. We are also thankful to Moy Park for their support in regular supply of frozen chicken/turkey based food items.

### **Ongoing relationships with companies**

We continue to build really good relationships with local companies who have been supporting the community with toys, Christmas fresh food family hampers, and providing treats for children. New companies are being explored and a number are forging links with us as more local people struggle with the 'cost of living' crisis and demand on the foodbank continues to increase.

### **Volunteers**

We have a strong core base of around 45 volunteers with additional support from local business throughout the year helping at busy times, such as Harvest and Christmas. The Foodbank is extremely grateful for the devotion of all our volunteers, and continue to recruit new volunteers into our 'family'.

### **Supporters**

The level of support, both financially and via food contributions, from local Churches, Schools and the wider community continues to amaze us and we are thankful for their contribution enabling us to restore dignity and revive hope for those in crisis. We are also grateful for the continued support of Grantham Estates.

## Chair's Report

In 2023, Grantham Foodbank as a charity turned 12, and with it came some amazing opportunities as well as some challenges. The Foodbank continues to be a resource for those in food crisis and as a vehicle of compassion in our town and surrounding villages. While the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be in the past, other crises have meant higher food prices, lower wages, and higher fuel and energy costs. As predicted, we have seen an increase in people needing support with food parcels, and this is only ever increasing. There is still a great need in our Grantham communities and this need will only increase in 2023 with the continuing rise in food, fuel and energy costs. We are grateful that the Foodbank continues to be a blessing to our town and surrounding villages, especially in these immensely challenging times.

People's generosity has been astounding. Many people have chosen to give money rather than food in 2023, and with the rise in having to purchase more food in 2023, the trustees have decided to set aside an even larger surplus to buy much needed food. As the cost of living continues to rise, the financial gifts sacrificially given to us are very much appreciated. Proverbs 11:25 says *'A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'* May all who have given so liberally and compassionately be blessed in their generosity.

2023 was a big year of change for Grantham Foodbank. My report comes to you as the new Chair of Trustees, after Rev Samantha Parsons stepped down as Chair last summer. I was keen to take on this role, as I am so aware that the Foodbank provides an incredible resource to so many people in Grantham, and how easily things can change that anyone could need that support. Stepping into Rev Sam's shoes was daunting, but she left the Foodbank in a fantastic position with an excellent and dedicated group of Trustees. I want to thank Rev Sam for her work and dedication to Grantham Foodbank, and for all the support she has given me personally as I have taken on this role.

In 2023 we also said goodbye to Brian Hanbury as Grantham Foodbank Co-ordinator, after over a decade dedicated to the charity. Brian's commitment to the Foodbank over the years was much appreciated by Trustees, Volunteers, and Clients alike, and we all wish him the very best as he moves on. We also said goodbye to a very dedicated Trustee, Toni Blakey, who was a great asset to the team. We wish her the very best in the future.

With some goodbyes, we have also said Hello. Dorothy Gaughan became Grantham Foodbank Co-ordinator last summer, almost at the same time I arrived as Chair of Trustees. She came into the role with enthusiasm and has been an excellent addition to the Grantham Foodbank team. Dorothy continually seeks out ways to creatively adapt to the changes and challenges we face, especially with the rise in clients and the need to purchase more food. We look forward to all that Dorothy will continue to bring to the role.

We continue to thank God for our wonderful team of volunteers and welcomed more in 2023, though we are always looking for more volunteers. It is with their dedication, hard work, adaptability, flexibility, compassion, and resilience in the face of all the challenges and changes faced daily that is the lifeblood of the organisation. I pray that God will continue to bless them all for their faithful service to the people of Grantham.

In the past the Foodbank has offered other services within the premises that provide help and support to those in need. These were suspended during the Covid pandemic but some have reopened again, and we are continually seeking ways to offer more help to those who need it most in Grantham.

I am indebted to my colleagues on the Board of Trustees for all their wisdom, expertise and dedication which helps to drive forward the work and vision of the Foodbank. During 2023, we welcomed some new Trustees to the team, taking it from a team of 5 to a team of 8 Trustees. On top of our already in place Trustees Kevin Hunt, Michelle Feasey, Brian Deptford, Chris Callow, and myself, we also welcomed Matthew Beniston, Jackie Gozalez, and Wendy Bentley, all bringing incredible expertise, ideas, and enthusiasm to the roles.

It is a source of great sadness that a foodbank is needed in Grantham, but while the need exists, we are thankful to be able to provide this service to the community and grateful to all who support it through their time, resources and prayers. This year being a General Election year, and all the political turbulence that brings to the nation, I pray that those who hold power will think especially of those who regularly use our Foodbanks across the nation and pray for a future where one won't be needed.

Every blessing – **Mother Hannah Grivell, Chair of trustees.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Income**

We have continued to be blessed with wonderful support both financial and through food donations. We have been particularly well supported by local businesses and charities, as well as our church and regular supporters, together with wonderful one-off donations. Donations of food have been very generous, and we have used these, together with spending an increased amount on purchasing of food to support our families.

### **Expenditure**

The two most significant ongoing items of expenditure are the rent of the premises and the employment costs of our Co-ordinator. Our landlords rent the premises to us at a very generous rent, and to that end, we will pay our 2024 rent in advance for the year. We have signed a three-year lease, which will provide us with premises stability until at least 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. To run an operation of this nature and complexity these are costs that cannot be avoided.

Last year I flagged our concerns regarding increased pressures on the Charity due to the potential of reduced donations and increased purchasing requirements. Thankfully, donations have remained strong, which have enabled us to increase our food purchases, and support more clients. The level of purchasing is now such, that we have a designed purchasing volunteer, who has done a wonderful job in sourcing food at the very best prices. We should like to particularly thank Asda and Aldi, who assisted us in the bulk purchase of food. The NFU have supported us in providing a generous donation for the purchase of fresh local milk. We are maintaining a reserve of £20,000 which has been set aside for food purchases, in 2022 about £10,000 was spent on purchasing food, this increased to over £35,000 in 2023.

### **Assets and Reserves**

The Van, purchased in 2020, is now being written off over a 5 year period to reflect the reduction in the value of this asset.

Our bank reserves remain strong, and the funds invested in the CCLA are now providing us with a good rate of monthly interest.

We continue to review our reserves policy, and at present have £50,000 for running costs, £20,000 for food purchases, and £5,000 to equipment. It is a worrying fact that some of our clients have little or limited equipment with which to prepare and cook food. To assist clients with purchasing these essential items a reserve of £5000 has been set aside.

### **Annual Accounts**

Both the income and expenditure figures include "donations in kind". This includes the value of the food we distribute, but not the value of the 4000+ hours of volunteer time.

A summary of Income and Expenditure for the CIO is shown in annex 5.

**Michelle Feasey – Treasurer**

Grantham Foodbank CIO  
Accounts for the year ended  
31st December 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Financial donations:					
	Churches	5,520		3,019	
	Regular donors	16,125		10,068	
	One-off donors	29,150		36,490	
	Other Charities	7,869		7,317	
	Businessess	30,066		28,015	
			88,730		84,909
Donations in kind:					
	Food donated		108,099		86,502
Other income:					
	Gift aid tax reclaimed	606		509	
	Interest income	6,862		977	
			7,468		1,486
Total income			204,297		172,897
<b>Expenditure:</b>					
Co-ordinator wages and pension costs			18,445		14,877
Premises costs:					
	Rent	10,000		833	
	Elec, Gas and phone	4,126		3,609	
	Water and waste removal	783		498	
	Insurance	1,646		1,796	
	Repairs and renewals	1,960		1,879	
			18,515		8,615
Food and provisions:					
	Distributed food		148,300		84,472
Printing, stationery & computer costs			1,459		735
Motor expenses			3,332		2,334
Vehicle depreciation			3,696		2,156
Professional and legal fees			1,746		748
Bank charges			111		
Other expenses			1,122		781
			196,726		114,718
Surplus of income over expenditure			7,571		58,179
Transferred from Grantham foodbank (Charity No:1146588)					192,095
Reserves brought forward			250,274		
Reserves carried forward					
	Unrestricted funds	177934		175,274	
	Designated funds	75000	252,934	75,000	
	Restricted funds		4,911		
			257,845		250,274

Grantham Foodbank CIO  
Accounts for the year ended  
31st December 2023

Reserves balance	<b>257,845</b>	<b>250,274</b>
------------------	----------------	----------------

Represented by:

Bank and cash balances	Unrestricted	225,623	203,686
	Restricted	4,911	
Refridgerated van		11,088	14,784
Stock of food		16,223	21,804
Prepaid rent			10,000
		<b>257,845</b>	<b>250,274</b>
		<b>257,845</b>	<b>250,274</b>

NB: 2022 accounts are for the CIO only, and therefore are only for part of the year, the remaining part of this year was reported under Grantham Foodbank Charity No: 1146588

**Independent Examiners Report to the  
Trustees of Grantham Foodbank CIO  
Accounts Period Year 2023 Charity Number: 1195874**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report:**

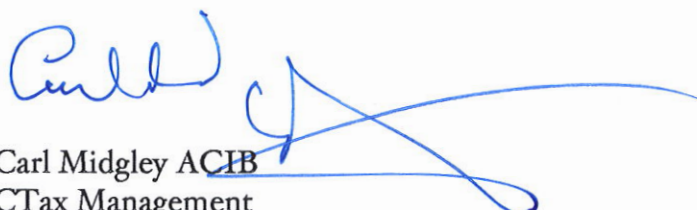
As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent Examiners Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Charities Act have not been met, or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Carl Midgley ACIB  
CTax Management  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2024