

DORCHESTER FOODBANK

England & Wales · Charity number 1200552

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-10-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Dorchester Baptist Church
Bridport Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1RR

Phone 07554983978

Email foodbankdorchester@gmail.com

Website <https://dorchesterbc.org.uk/foodbank>

Activities

Objects: 1.THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY IN DORCHESTER AND SURROUNDINGS BY PROVIDING GRANTS, ITEMS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED AND/ OR CHARITIES OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY.

Activities: The prevention or relief of poverty in Dorchester and surroundings by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/ or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£42,364	£43,795	-	-
2024-09-30	£46,764	£27,465	-	-
2023-09-30	£55,588	£49,792	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rosemary Hardwicke	Chair	2009-09-08
Dr JOHN HILTON		2021-06-12
Dr John Philip S Burn		2020-09-19
Stuart Dawson		2021-05-24
Tracy Hughes		2020-09-19

DORCHESTER FOODBANK

England & Wales - Charity number 1200552

Accounts



Dorchester Food Bank
The Dorford Centre
Bridport Road,
Dorchester
DT1 1RR

Trustees' Annual Report Dorchester FoodBank

1st Oct 2024 to 30th September 2025

Charity Name: Dorchester FoodBank

Charity Number: 1200552

Principal Office:

Dorchester FoodBank, The Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester. DT1 1RR

We were registered as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** on 3rd October 2022.

Our objectives are:

The prevention or relief of poverty in Dorchester and surroundings by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/ or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Governance.

Our **governing body**, the Board of Trustees, consists of five people, Rosemary Hardwicke (Chair), John Burn (Secretary), Tracy Hughes (FoodBank Operations Manager), Stuart Dawson (Safeguarding Officer) and John Hilton (Treasurer). These five individuals have served throughout the year and also constitute the total membership of the charity. Board meetings are held at least every two months, depending on the need. We hold an annual meeting of supporters and collaborators at which the annual report and accounts are presented.

Accounting: as a charity with an income of less than £250,000 we operate with a simple receipts and payments accounting system and we have our annual accounts examined by an independent examiner, appointed by the board. The Charity has no capital assets, no endowments or investments and is totally dependent on grants and, more importantly, donations (in both cash and kind) for its income.

How the charity fulfilled its charitable purposes for public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in the following ways.

- We currently open three mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) from 10.30am to 12.30pm for clients to collect their parcel(s).

- Many of our clients are in food poverty as a result of multiple issues, including low income and debt, poor mental and/or physical health, rent or housing problems, etc. We therefore “signpost” those clients to local organisations, such as Citizens Advice, Dorset Council, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), etc., who are best suited to provide support and advice with the underlying issues.

Brief summary of achievements during the year.

Our priorities for the year were: 2024-2025:

- 1) Continue to administer the food collection and distribution service as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- 2) Continue to work with partner organisations to help address food poverty.
- 3) Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of the services we provide.
- 4) Review our governance arrangements to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose.
- 5) Continue to review our volunteer arrangements.

Continue to administer the food collection and distribution service as efficiently and effectively as possible,

The table below shows the number of food parcels distributed, over the period October 2024 to September 2025, and also provides a breakdown of the type of client (i.e., single, couple, family).

Table 1. Numbers of food parcels distributed

	Oct23-Sep24	Oct24-Sep25	% change
Total number of referrals	1377	1492	+8.4
Total number of Single recipients receiving a parcel	639	680	+6.4
Total number of Couples/Small families receiving a parcel	300	310	+3.3
Total number of Families receiving a parcel	163	161	-1.2
Total number of parcels issued	1102	1151	+4.4
Total number of Adults & Children assisted	2130	2250	+5.6
Total number of clients that asked for toiletries	907	973	+7.3
Total number of clients that asked for household cleaning items	880	977	+11.0

Over the last year we have seen an increase in the number of referrals received (8%) to 1492 and an almost 6% increase (to 2250) in the number of individuals (adults and children)

accessing our service. During the period we distributed 1151 food parcels comprising of 161 family parcels; 310 small family/ couple parcels and 681 single person parcels. This constitutes a 4.4% increase in total parcels handed out, from the 1102 distributed in 2023-24. We believe that this increase may be due to the fact that clients continue to be impacted by the cost of living crisis.

Our re-estimated current value of our food parcels is shown in the table below.

Table 2. Cost of different size food parcels

Parcel size	Cost 2023-24	Cost 2024-2025	Number distributed 24/25	Total cost
single clients	£21.00	£24.00	680	£16,320
couple/small families	£32.00	£36.00	310	£11,160
family	£50.00	£57.00	161	£ 9177
			1151	£36,657

The cost of each parcel has increased by 14% from last year. And the total cost of the parcels distributed has risen from £31,658 last year to £36,657 this year, an increase of 15.8%, most of which is attributable to increases in food costs.

In addition to supplying clients with ambient food items (such as packet and tinned goods) we also provide a range of toiletries (such as shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products, etc.) and household cleaning items (such as laundry detergent, washing up liquid, kitchen cleaner, etc.). Most (85%) of our clients ask for toiletries and/or household cleaning items. Household Cleaning and Toiletries costs appear to have increased by nearly 16% so the value for 2024/25 year has been estimated at about £11.00 per parcel.

Assuming one household cleaning/toiletries pack per food parcel the total cost of the additional items is £12,661. This suggests that the total value of all the parcels, including cleaning and toiletries is £49,318 for this year. The Financial report (below) shows a spend of £18,965 this financial year, to complete the food parcels, indicating that physical donations of food/ household items have an estimated value of £30,353. However, this includes £1500 from the Howards Motor Group donation (see below) bringing the value of voluntary donations by individuals to £28,853, i.e. physical gifts constitute 58.5% of the parcel contents. Given the assumptions made in the estimates, the percentage contribution of the total food parcel costs from voluntary physical donations has remained about the same as last year (55%). However, since the total spend on food parcels has increased, the absolute value of physical donations has increased in line by about £5,500.

Continue to work with partner organisations to help address food poverty.

We continue to work closely with our partners on initiatives designed to improve the services we offer to clients. This has included providing financial support, jointly with Dorchester

Poverty Action, for the locally run CAP (Christians Against Poverty) money management courses, which can help clients resolve the problems that led them to seek the assistance of the Foodbank. We also supported CA Central Dorset financially, as their services continue to be an integral part of our support to clients by helping them get out of the financial problems which cause them to require food bank support.

In order to maximise the support we can provide to clients, we also work closely with Foodshare, which is based at the Family Church in Poundbury, and offers a slightly different, but complementary service. Foodshare parcels are made up of mostly fresh fruit and vegetables, bakery and eggs along with the occasional addition of a block of cheese, whereas, our parcels are mostly essential storable food items with a good shelf life. We both cover Dorchester and the surrounding areas, but, whereas, we provide one off parcels of enough food for several days through a collection service, Foodshare is able to deliver fresh food weekly, for up to 12 weeks. Where a family is unable to collect in person from the Dorchester Food Bank, Foodshare is often able to deliver on our behalf. We also make referrals to each other, where this will be of benefit to a family when they have been referred to only one of us. Hence people in our rural community are able to receive a more comprehensive parcel when emergency food is needed as Foodshare often deliver a Dorchester Food Bank parcel with the first of the Foodshare parcels, which, jointly last for a longer period. A perfect example of the two food banks working together was the sharing of the generous £3000 shopping spree at Bookers Cash and Carry at Weston Super Mare, donated by the Howards Motor Group.

Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of Dorchester FoodBank in the local community

We continue to promote our services through social media and local newspapers, and this has helped increase awareness of the services we provide. We have updated both our website and our leaflets and posters this year. We plan to raise our profile, and access to our improved website, in 2026 through a series of newspaper and magazine articles.

Review our governance arrangements to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose.

We have completed a thoroughgoing review of our business plan, policies and procedures in the last year with a view to reviewing them next in 2028. The updated Safeguarding Policy was circulated to volunteers and discussed at a Volunteers Tea in October 2025'

Review our volunteer arrangements, including development of succession planning arrangements

Our volunteers are our most valued resource. We regularly review our volunteer arrangements and, as part of this, have successfully recruited additional people to help increase our operations teams. In addition, and as part of our development of succession

planning arrangements, we drafted a job description and Person Specification for Board Members with a view to advertising for new board members.

Financial Report 2024-2025

Statement of Consolidated Assets, Income and Liabilities Expenditure

October 2024 to September 2025

	2024-2025 £		2023-2024 £	
Opening balance		57054.24		37,755.49
Income				
Grants (cash) donations	0.00		5,750.00	
	39,122.11		37,619.90	
Gift Aid repayments	2913.40		3,394.27	
Bank interest	328.57			
Gross income		42,364.08		46,764.17
Less expenditure				
Food	23,544.78		18,965.44	
Xmas vouchers	5,825.00		3,750.00	
Boots vouchers	1,000.00		1,780.00	
other-Admin & Consumables	2135.66		2,634.98	
Total operating expenses		32,505.44		27,130.42
Collaborating organisations		11,290.00		335.00
Total expenditure		43,795.44		27,465.42
Net income		(1,431.36)		19,315.58
Total final balance		55.622.88		57.054.24

Income and Expenditure

Assets	2024-2025 £		2023-2024 £	
	Barclays Bank current	CAF 60 day - Surebrook	Barclays Bank current	CAF 60 day - Surebrook
Opening balance	57,054.24	0.00	37,755.49	
Net income	(1,431.36)		19,315.58	
Bank transfer	(30,000.00)	30,000.00	0.00	
	(31,431.36)			
Closing balances	25,622.88	30,000.00	57,054.24	0.00

Accounts – Analytical Review

We are very grateful to our donors who have supported us so generously with both money and gifts of canned and packeted foodstuffs and cleaning and hygiene products throughout the year.

Using rounded figures for simplicity, our total income from donations increased slightly (4%) by £1,502 from £37,600 last year to £39,122. We received no cash grants this financial year and gift aid repayments were £481 (14%) less. The latter loss was almost offset by bank interest (see later) of £329. As a result, excluding the grant income last year, our total income, showed a small increase of £1,350, i.e. non grant income was quite stable.

Total expenditure on food bank costs increased by 19.8% (£5375), mainly as a result of a 17% (£4579) increase in spend on food, hygiene products and cleaning materials and a £1245 (22.5%) increase in vouchers. In order to give our clients some personal control over creating their own Christmas. £5,725 worth of supermarket vouchers were distributed to our clients (one £30 voucher per person) in the weeks running up to Christmas. These vouchers were greatly appreciated, as it gave the opportunity for some of the families to buy small Christmas presents for their children. Without these vouchers, some of the children would have had nothing. This year £1000 was also spent on Boots vouchers (which are used, mainly, for formula milk and/ or nappies, as we don't have the space to store a wide range of these products). This was similar to the amount spent last year.

Total admin, consumables and small equipment costs reduced by £499 {19%}. Admin costs (mainly website support and mobile phone costs) amounted to £953 this year with consumables and small equipment purchases (plastic bags for repackaging sugar, etc., strong plastic bags to hold food parcels, stationery, extra support items to enable rough sleepers to access food bank parcels, advertising leaflets and banner and temporary storage for a large food donation (see later)) amounted to £1,182.

Because income fell by about £4,400 and expenditure rose by about £4300 in 2024-2025 compared to the previous year, disposable income for the year fell by £9,675 but was still more than sufficient to our needs.

We regularly receive donations of food items, personal hygiene products and cleaning products from, mainly anonymous people and organisations. This year these donations have been very valuable to us and have made up (very approximately) 62% of the content of all food parcels (see above). In December, the Howards Motor Group very generously offered several Foodbanks within their trading area, including Dorchester, a £3000 shopping spree at Bookers Cash and Carry at Weston Super Mare. We decided to share our good fortune with Dorchester Food Share and together we hired a large van to enable us to transport the result of our "big shop". Because our own storage facilities at DBC are restricted, we needed to pay

for a small storage unit locally for a 3 month period to allow us easy access to the donated items. However, the cost of this was easily offset by the generosity of the £1,500 donation in kind.

We distributed two rounds of SPAR Vouchers in March and May/June 2025, which could be redeemed for food items at the local SPAR store. We declined a third offer in July as we felt it may encourage dependence and had already led to disputes between clients and volunteer staff. Should SPAR offer a further round of vouchers, we will review our participation. We plan to issue vouchers only occasionally, such as at Christmas and Easter.

As a food bank, we do not just try to put on a sticking plaster to the problem of food poverty by giving food, we make every effort to get clients to seek advice to improve their financial circumstances. In this we are very reliant on Citizens Advice (CA) However, CA are undergoing severe financial pressures, so the trustees decided to transfer £5,000 to CA to try and ensure their continued support.

We do not have facilities to collect and store fresh food, so we work closely with Dorchester Food Share (see above) and we gave £1000 to them to help keep their services running.

Jointly with Dorchester Poverty Action, we try to encourage clients to attend CAP (Christians against Poverty) courses on money management by giving grocery vouchers to attendees. This has continued to be very successful for a relatively small outlay of our money (£290).

The trustees are also trying to increase uptake of the food bank facilities and we know that FB does not manage to attract many older clients, although we know food poverty is significant in this demographic. To this end we approached Age UK WS&N Dorset and gave them £5,000 to jointly try and develop more use by the older generation, where need is observed. This development is being assessed to see how it might be improved.

As a registered charity we have been advised by the Charity Commission that we should hold a sum, equivalent to approximately half our annual running costs, as a reserve The idea is that, in the case of severe financial problems, this money would be available to buy time to develop a financial plan to correct the situation, or, in the worst case scenario, close the facility in a controlled way. To this end the trustees have decided to transfer £30,000 to a deposit account (which pays interest).

To conclude, we have, once again, been blessed with financial and physical donations to meet our needs this year and, again, we sincerely thank all our donors and volunteers, without whom we couldn't exist.



Chair: Rosemary Hardwicke

Date: 20.12.25

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorchester FoodBank

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorchester FoodBank (the FoodBank) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the FoodBank 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 FoodBank'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 FoodBank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name (PRINT):

DAVID R LEISH

Address: redacted

Date: 13 January 2023

DORCHESTER FOODBANK

England & Wales - Charity number 1200552

Accounts



Reg Ch No. 1200552

Dorchester Food Bank
The Dorford Centre
Bridport Road,
Dorchester
DT1 1RR

Trustees' Annual Report Dorchester FoodBank

1st Oct 2023 to 30th September 2024

Charity Name: Dorchester FoodBank

Charity Number: 1200552

Principal Office:

Dorchester FoodBank, The Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester. DT1 1RR

We were registered as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** on 3rd October 2022.

Our objectives are:

The prevention or relief of poverty in Dorchester and surroundings by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/ or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Governance.

Our **governing body**, the Board of Trustees, consists of five people, Rosemary Hardwicke (Chair), John Burn (Secretary), Tracy Hughes (foodbank manager), Stuart Dawson (Safeguarding Officer) and John Hilton (Treasurer). These five individuals have served throughout the year and also constitute the total membership of the charity. Board meetings are held at least every two months, depending on the need. We hold an annual meeting of supporters and collaborators at which the annual report and accounts are presented.

Accounting: as a charity with an income of less than £250,000 we operate with a simple receipts and payments accounting system and we have our annual accounts examined by an independent examiner, appointed by the board. The Charity has no capital assets, no endowments or investments and is totally dependent on grants and, more importantly, donations (in both cash and kind) for its income.

How charity fulfilled its charitable purposes for public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in the following ways.

- We currently open three mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) from 10.30am to 12.30pm for clients to collect their parcel(s).

- Many of our clients are in food poverty as a result of multiple issues, including low income and debt, poor mental and/or physical health, rent or housing problems, etc. We therefore “signpost” those clients to local organisations, such as Citizens Advice, Dorset Council, who are best suited to provide support and advice with the on the underlying issues.

Brief summary of achievements during the year.

Our priorities for the year were:

- 1) Continue to administer the food collection and distribution service as efficiently and effectively as possible
- 2) Consolidate good governance arrangements by:
 - Developing an appropriate range of policies and procedures
 - Reviewing all our policies and business plan regularly
 - Implementing all necessary changes to remain compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and other legal requirements.
- 3) Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of Dorchester FoodBank in the local community.
- 4) Review our volunteer arrangements, including the development of succession planning arrangements.
- 5) Investigate other funding opportunities, particularly Gift Aid on small donations.

Continue to administer the food collection and distribution service as efficiently and effectively as possible,

As a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis, the local Council provided additional financial help to those that were struggling, which reduced the demand for support from the FoodBank. Over the year we distributed 1107 food parcels comprising of 177 family parcels; 298 small family/ couple parcels and 632 single person parcels. This constitutes an 11.5% reduction in total parcels distributed, from the 1251 distributed in 2022-23.

The table below shows client usage for 2023-24, and for the previous twelve months. In addition to providing support for those in food poverty, we have also worked with a number of partners (such as Citizens Advice, Dorchester Family Support and Foodshare) to help those experiencing financial difficulties.

Table 1. Numbers of food parcels distributed

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% decrease
Number of referrals	1251	1107	11.5
Number of adults helped	1620	1435	11.4
Number of children helped	817	716	12.4
Number of families helped	222	177	20.3
Number of couples helped	321	298	7.2
Number of single people helped	708	632	10.7

We have estimated that the current value of our food parcels is £21.00 for single clients, £32.00 for couple/small families and £50.00 for a family.

In addition to supplying clients with ambient food items (such as packet and tinned goods) we also provide a range of toiletries (such as shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products, etc.) and household cleaning items (such as laundry detergent, washing up liquid, kitchen cleaner, etc.). Over 82% of our clients ask for toiletries and 80% ask for household cleaning items. It is difficult to estimate the average value per client, as not everyone needs the same items. However, we estimate that an average value of toiletries and cleaning products per food parcel would be in the region of £9.50.

The estimated total value of each type of food parcel is shown below

	Price	number distributed	cost
Single	£21.00	632	13,272
Couple/Small Family	£32.00	298	9,536
Family	£50.00.	177	<u>8,850</u>
	Total cost		31,658

Assuming one household cleaning/toiletries pack per food parcel the total cost of the additional items is £10,517. This suggests that the total value of all the parcels, including cleaning and toiletries is £42,175 for the year. Table 3 (below) reports a spend of £18,965 this financial year, to complete the food parcels, indicating that physical donations of food/household items have an estimated value of £23,210, i.e. physical gifts constitute 55% of the parcel contents.

In order to cope with occasional large donations of, say, dog food, we have purchased a lockable storage box so that these occasional events do not swamp the working storage area and make bag packing difficult.

Consolidate good governance arrangements by:

- a) We regularly review our policies and business plan and take appropriate action to help consolidate our governance arrangements. As part of this, we have developed new procedures covering how we will support those clients who become over-dependent on FoodBank.

Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of Dorchester FoodBank in the local community.

We continue to promote our services through social media and local newspapers, and this has helped increase awareness of the services we provide. We have also commenced a review of our website and information leaflets, which should be completed shortly.

In addition, we continue to work closely with our partners on initiatives designed to improve the services we offer to clients. This has included providing financial support, jointly with Dorchester Poverty Action, for the locally run CAP (Christians Against Poverty) money management course.

Review our volunteer arrangements, including development of succession planning arrangements

We regularly review our volunteer arrangements and, as part of this, have successfully increased our capacity by increasing resources. In addition, and as part of our development of succession planning arrangements, we drafted a job description and Person Spec for Board Members with a view to advertising for new board members.

Investigate other funding opportunities, particularly expanding the uptake of Gift Aid

This year, we successfully applied for a one-off grant from Dorset Council for £5000. We were also successful in increasing the uptake of Gift Aid.

Future aims and objectives

Our aims and objectives for 2024/25 are:

- Continue to work with partner organisations to help address food poverty.
- Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of the services we provide.
- Review our governance arrangements to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose.
- Continue to review our volunteer arrangements.

Financial information

**Table 3 Statement of Consolidated Assets, Income and Liabilities
Expenditure
October 2023 to September 2024**

	2023-2024 £		2022-23 £	
Opening balance		37,755.49		31,959.74
Income				
- grants	5,750.00		5,000.00	
donations	37,619.90		50,587.88	
Gift Aid repayments	3,394.27			
Total income		46,764.17		55,587.88
Less expenditure				
Food	18,965.44		23,171.72	
Xmas vouchers	3,750.00		8735.00	
Boots vouchers	1,780.00		1,800.00	
other-Admin & Consumables	2,634.98		2,085.41	
		27,130.42		35,792.13
Other foodbank & CA support		335.00		14,000.00
Total expenditure		27,465.42		49,792.13
Closing balance		57,054.24		37,755.41

Note:

When we registered as a Charitable Incorporated Charity (CIO) with the Charity Commission in 2022 our legal status changed. As a result, our bank required us to close our old account and open a new Community (business) Account. Our new account was opened in February 2024 and was run in parallel with our old account until we were able to transfer all the transactions from the old account to the new. The old account was closed on 23rd Sept 2024. The accounts presented here are a consolidation of the two bank accounts.

Accounts – Analytical Review

We are very grateful to our donors who have supported us so generously with both money and gifts of canned and packeted foodstuffs and cleaning and hygiene products throughout the year.

Using rounded figures for simplicity, our total income from donations, reduced significantly from £50,600 to £37,600; a drop of almost 26%. However, this was balanced; partly by a reduction of £4,200 in the spend on food, partly by our work, last year, encouraging eligible donors to gift aid, which raised almost £3,400 and partly by a delay of purchasing £5,000 worth of Christmas vouchers into the 2024-25 reporting year. All the other financial income and spend was similar between years.

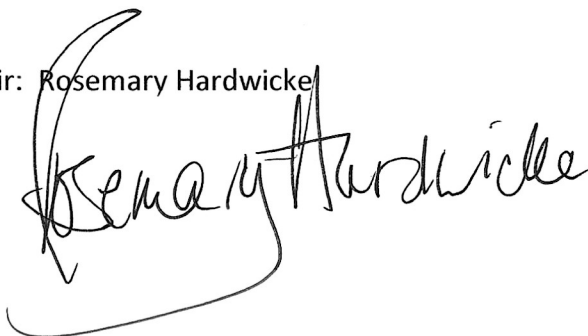
Despite the significant fall in monetary donations, our net income over the year showed a major increase of £19,300, compared to our net income of £5,800 in the previous year. As a result our balance carried forward has increased to over £55,000, from £22,755 last year. However, we have already committed to spend £12,000 of our reserves by providing financial support to some of our partners so that they can provide additional services to our clients in 2024/25. Unfortunately, we were not able to talk to these organisations before the end of the 2023-24 financial year. Hence, discussions will take place in the new financial year.

People have again, been extraordinarily generous. About £13,000 came from a few large donors: £5,000 in a grant from Dorset Council; a few private individuals gave large donations, including one £2500 donation and, four donations between £1000 and £1,500 and three greater than £500. The rest has come from the hundreds of donations, many small, a few up to £500, some regular and some one-offs all adding together to make the magnificent total. In addition to this we receive amazing support from many individuals and organisations in the form of actual food, hygiene and cleaning products, which never appear in the financial records.

In order to give our clients some personal control over creating their own Christmas, £6,250 worth of supermarket vouchers were distributed to our clients (one £30 voucher per person) in the weeks running up to Christmas. (£2500 of which were brought forward from last year.) These vouchers were greatly appreciated, as it gave the opportunity for some of the families to buy small Christmas presents for their children. Without these vouchers, some of the children would have had nothing. This year £1800 was also spent on Boots vouchers (which are used, mainly, for formula milk and/ or nappies, which we don't have the space to store). This was similar to the amount spent last year.

To conclude, we have been blessed with financial and physical donations to meet our needs this year and, again, we thank all our donors.

Chair: Rosemary Hardwicke



Date:

14.2.25

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorchester FoodBank

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorchester FoodBank (the FoodBank) for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the FoodBank 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 FoodBank'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 FoodBank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name (PRINT):

DAVID R. LEIGH

Date:

21st JANUARY 2025, and again on
20th MARCH 2025

DORCHESTER FOODBANK

England & Wales - Charity number 1200552

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report Dorchester FoodBank

1st Oct 2022 to 31st September 2023

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We were registered as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** on 3rd October 2022.

Our objectives are:

The prevention or relief of poverty in Dorchester and surroundings by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/ or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Governance.

Our **governing body**, the Board of Trustees, consists of five people, Rosemary Hardwicke (Chair), John Burn (Secretary), Tracy Hughes (foodbank manager), Stuart Dawson (Safeguarding Officer) and John Hilton (Treasurer). These five individuals have served throughout the year and also constitute the total membership of the charity. Board meetings are held at least every two months, depending on the need. We hold an annual meeting of supporters and collaborators at which the annual report and accounts are presented.

Accounting: as a charity with an income of less than £250,000 we operate with a simple receipts and payments accounting system and we have our annual accounts examined by an independent examiner, appointed by the board. The Charity has no capital assets, no endowments or investments and is totally dependent on grants and, more importantly, donations (in both cash and kind) for its income.

How charity fulfilled its charitable purposes for public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in the following ways.

- We currently open three mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) from 10.00am to 12.30pm for clients to collect their parcel(s).
- Many of our clients are in food poverty as a result of other issues, including low income and debt, poor mental and/or physical health, rent or housing problems, etc. We therefore look to “signpost” those clients to local organisations, who are best suited to provide support and advice with the underlying issue, such as Citizens Advice, Dorset Council, etc.

Brief summary of achievements during the year.

Our priorities for the year were:

- To continue to assist those people in Dorchester and surrounding areas suffering from food and fuel poverty and meet any increased demand for our services.
- To develop a number of key policies and procedures

- To register for Gift Aid status.
- To work together with other groups, such as Dorchester Family Support, to help publicise our services to a wider audience.
- To continue to work with our partner organisations, such as, Foodshare and Citizens Advice.

Assisting clients who are suffering from food and fuel poverty.

Over the year we distributed 1251 food parcels: 222 family parcels; 321 small family/ couple parcels and 708 single person parcels. This constitutes a 41% increase in total parcels distributed, from 809 in 2021-2022.

The table below shows client usage for 2022-23, and for the previous twelve months. In addition to meeting the increase in demand for our services we have also worked with a number of partners (such as Citizens Advice, Dorchester Family Support and Foodshare) to help those experiencing food and fuel poverty try to balance their finances.

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Number of referrals	890	1251
Number of adults helped	1160	1620
Number of children helped	674	817
Number of families helped	205	222
Number of couples helped	215	321
Number of single people helped	470	708

The data above show that there was a 41% increase in the number of referrals received in 2022-23, when compared with the previous year. Demand for assistance from families and couples increased by 8 and 49%, respectively, whilst demand from single people increased by 51%.

We have noticed an increase in the number of clients who are in full time work and who may not have accessed a Foodbank before. We have also seen an increase in demand for household cleaning items and toiletries.

We have estimated that the value of our food parcels is £20.00 for single clients, £30.00 for couple/small families and £47.75 for a family. Multiplying these parcel values by the number of each parcel type issued (see above) and summing gives an estimate of £34,390 for the total value of parcels distributed during the year.

In addition to supplying clients with ambient food items (such as packet and tinned goods) we also provide a range of toiletries (such as shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products, etc) and household cleaning items (such as laundry detergent, , washing up liquid, kitchen cleaner, etc). Although the majority of our clients ask for toiletries and household cleaning items it is difficult to estimate the average value per client, as not everyone needs the same items. However, we believe that an average value would be in the region of £8.20. Assuming one household cleaning/toiletries pack per food parcel the total cost of the additional items is £10,258. This suggests that the total value of all the parcels, including cleaning and toiletries is £44,649 for the year.

Our impression is that the amount of donated food, cleaning and toiletry items decreased significantly over the year 2022-2023, but we are not able to estimate by how much. Since we spent £23,172 on extra items to top up the shortfall of physical (as opposed to monetary) donations required to make up the food parcels, the physical donations have an estimated value of £21,476, i.e. 48% of the value of each parcel. Clearly, donated food and hygiene/ cleaning items contribute a significant proportion of the total goods

given out in food parcels. However, within the physical donations of goods, we also receive, some items that are not generally included within the “stock items” which make up our food parcels. For example, in the lead up to the festive period, we usually receive a lot of Christmas food, such as Mince Pies, Christmas Puddings and Advent Calendars. We make these items available to clients as “extras”. Since it is difficult to estimate the value of these “extra” items we have not included them within the estimated value of donated goods.

Analysis of spending on food parcel top-ups has shown that at the beginning of March there was a rapid increase in spend on food items from £153 per week to £678; an increase of 440%. This was, presumably, as a result of reductions in donations of food items, increases in numbers using the food bank and inflation. Although there are signs of a slight drift downward in this spend, it still remains high.

We are grateful for the generosity of our community and have been blessed by an increase in financial donations. This has enabled us to purchase food items, as well as household cleaning items and toiletries, and continue to meet extra demand.

Develop a number of key policies and procedures

The Charity Commission recommend that charities establish specific policies and procedures to help ensure good governance arrangements. Over the last year we have developed a number of policies and procedures including safeguarding, complaints, managing unreasonable behaviour, etc. This is an ongoing objective and we plan to develop further appropriate policies and procedures in 2023-24.

Registering for Gift Aid status

We registered for Gift Aid status during the year and encourage those donors, who are taxpayers, to complete our Gift Aid form.

Working with Partner organisations

We are proud of our ongoing relationships with partner organisations (such as Foodshare, Citizens Advice and Dorchester Family Support). During the year we continued to both work with and support these organisations and have committed to providing funding of £14,000 to help with food and energy poverty initiatives (see accounts)

Reserves policy

The Charity Commission encourages charities to have a Reserve Policy in place. This is an attempt to secure the future of a charity, in case of the unexpected reduction in funding, and allow either the development of plans to reverse the reduction or to allow controlled closure of the charity should the former plan not be viable.

The Charity Commission suggests an amount, equivalent to six months’ working, capital to be held as reserves. Our current accounts show that, in the financial year 2022-2023 we spent £36,000 per year, to fund and manage the FoodBank. Since the amount spent on food increased significantly over the year, a reserve of £22,000 was agreed by the Board in November 2023.

Future aims and objectives

As laid out in our current Business Plan, we intend to:

- 1) Continue to administer the food collection and distribution service as efficiently and effectively as possible.

- 2) Continue to work with partner organisations to help address food poverty
- 3) Consolidate good governance arrangements by:
 - Developing an appropriate range of policies and procedures.
 - Reviewing all our policies and business plan regularly.
 - Implementing all necessary changes to remain compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and other legal requirements
- 4) Undertake initiatives designed to increase awareness of Dorchester Foodbank in the local community
- 5) Review our volunteer arrangements, including the development of succession planning arrangements.
- 6) Investigate other funding opportunities, particularly expanding the uptake of Gift Aid.

Financial information

Statement of Assets Income and Liabilities Expenditure October 2022 to September 2023

	2022-23 £		2021-22 £	
Opening balance		31,959.74		19,765.42
Income				
- grants	5000.00		2,500.00	-
donations	50,587.88		20,254.80	
Total income		55,587.88		22,754.80
Less:				
expenditure – food	23,171.72		9,161.90	
expenditure –Xmas& Boots vouchers ¹	10,535.00		600.00	
expenditure – other	2,085.41		798.58	
		35,792.13		10,560.48
Other foodbank & CA support				
- Citizens Advice for energy poverty aid	5,000.00			
-Dorchester Foodshare	2,000.00			
-Dorchester Family Support	5,000.00			
-Portland Foodbank	2,000.00			
		14,000.00		
Total expenditure		49,792.13		
Closing balance		37,755.41		31,959.74

Note:

1. Xmas & Boots vouchers: in year 2021-2022 this row only included boots vouchers, which are given out to clients with specific requirements, mainly nappies, formula milk, where we do not have the space to store such items. In 2022-2023 this heading included Xmas vouchers as well. (See main report for details.)

Accounts – Analytical Review

We are very grateful to our donors who have supported us so generously with both money and gifts of canned and packeted foodstuffs and cleaning and hygiene products. We have been fortunate to increase our income to over £55,000, from £22,755 last year. People have been extraordinarily generous and, although about £11,000 came from a few large donors (Cerne Abbas open gardens, Roberts Charitable Trust, the Rock Choir, the Coca Cola Trust, British Aerospace, Dorchester Round Table and a few private individuals), the rest has come from the summation of hundreds of donations, many small, some larger, some regular and some one-offs all adding together to make the magnificent total.

However, to counter-balance this, our spending on stock has increased to about £26,600 (an increase of almost 280%) as a result of both a decrease in the amount of actual food items donated and a major increase in the number of clients supported. All this as a result of the energy crisis and the rapid increase in inflation, particularly of food items.

In order to give our clients some personal control over creating their own Christmas, we spent £6,235 on supermarket vouchers which were distributed to our clients (one per person) in the weeks running up to Christmas. This money was greatly appreciated, as it gave the opportunity for some of the families to buy small Christmas presents for their children. Without these vouchers the children would have had nothing. It was humbling to see how this gesture brought several clients to tears. We intend to repeat this for Christmas 2024 and £2500 Coop vouchers have been bought forward in preparation. This year £1800 were also spend on Boots vouchers (see note 1).

FoodBank can only ever be a short term “sticking plaster” to the problem of food poverty. As a result, it has always been our policy to try and address some of the causes of food poverty experienced by our clients, by encouraging them to engage with organisations that try to identify the specifics of their financial problems and advise on how to address them To this end we donated £5000 to CA (Citizens Advice) to provide help with energy vouchers for our clients.

We also donated £5000 to Dorchester Family Support, who provided food parcels during the summer and Christmas holidays to families of school children receiving free school meals. This reduced the call on our services over these periods.

We recognise that, as the largest and highest profile foodbank in Dorchester, we do get the lion’s share of donations. So, when finances allow, we try to help out our smaller partner foodbanks in Dorchester and environs, who sometimes struggle to make ends meet and where a relatively small amount of money makes a big difference.

To conclude, we have been blessed with financial donations to meet our needs this year and, again, we thank all our donors.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorchester FoodBank

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorchester FoodBank (the FoodBank) for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the FoodBank 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 FoodBank'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 FoodBank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:



Name (PRINT):

DAVID LEIGH.

Address: Address available on request

Date:

17.1.2024