

Bedlington Foodbank

Helping our Community

Contact Email: bedlingtonfoodbank@gmail.com

Annual Report for 2023 **(Including Statistics)**

Well! Can you believe the Bedlington Foodbank has been running for a FULL YEAR!

First of all we would like to say "Thank You" to the Management Trustees, Chris our Chairperson, Peter our Treasurer, Liane our Secretary and Pauline who co-ordinates and oversees the week by week working of the Foodbank. The Trustees are also responsible for making sure we comply with Charity Regulations including good policies on Data Protection, Safeguarding, and Health and Safety (in conjunction with Trinity Church Bedlington)

A "Huge Thank You" must go to our Volunteers for the continued hard work and support put in, to enable the smooth running of the Foodbank.

Thanks must also go to Trinity Church Bedlington for the use of their building giving us a good base to work from.

The Change Over!

- At the beginning of January 2023, the change over from "The Matthew Project" to "The Bedlington Foodbank" went extremely well - the team of volunteers worked hard to make the move as smooth as possible.
- The Matthew Project paid for all the renovations to the room we were allocated in Trinity Church.
- We had a couple of minor problems with the Referral Forms, during the first few weeks, but now we have our own form template, the Referees from Northumberland Communities Together (NCT), Adult and Children Social Care, and Social Workers etc. are using this on a regular basis, so we receive all the relevant information we ask for, via email.

The Area Covered by the Foodbank:

The Purpose of our Foodbank is to help address Food Poverty in the Bedlingtonshire area, seeking to provide food to those in need.

Many people only need to use our Foodbank for a short amount of time - particularly if they are waiting for confirmation of their Benefit Applications

etc (which can take up to 8 weeks to process). However, we do have a number of regular clients who are struggling with the Cost of Living Increases and do have to resort to using our Foodbank on a much more regular basis.

An Emergency Food Parcel is delivered to each client, with enough food to last for at least 3 days - (the size of the parcel is dependent on the number of family members and the ages of any children).

From January to April 2023, we continued to cover the same area and in the same way as the Matthew Project did.

We provided and delivered food parcels to people living in:

- Bedlington
- Bedlington Station
- Guide Post
- Stakeford
- Choppington
- Sleekburn (including both East and West)
- Cambois

Also we delivered to people who found it difficult to get to a "Walk-In" Foodbank from:

- Ashington
- Blyth
- Newbiggin-by-the Sea
- Lynemouth
- Seaton Delaval
- Cramlington

At a Trustees Meeting in April the figures (including Total Number of Parcels delivered, Total Numbers of Adults, Children and Pets) for our first quarter were looked at and it was then noticed that quite a large proportion of our deliveries were to people "Out of the Bedlington Area" even though we were limiting the number of referrals from places outside of Bedlingtonshire.

At that time there was only one Volunteer Driver on a Thursday and his delivery round was taking a very long time to complete - so, it was then that a decision was made to deliver in the Bedlingtonshire Area Only - however if the Referee could come and collect the parcel and deliver it to the families themselves, then we would still prepare a parcel where necessary.

You will be able to see from the Statistics Graph attached to this report that we did have a drop in numbers from May onwards, which was to be expected.

Statistics for 2023:

- The number of parcels we have delivered has been.
- We have also recorded the number of adults, children and pets we have helped:
 - We have delivered a Total of **439** Parcels
 - We were able to help a Total number of **573** Adults
 - We were able to help a Total number of **501** Children
 - We were able to help a Total number of **171** Pets
(including dogs, cats, 2 rabbits and a parrot!!)
 - **(See The Statistics Sheet Overleaf)**

Volunteers

We now have 13 volunteers to help with deliveries, collecting donations from Local Shops and preparing the parcels ready for delivering.

Donations:

Over the year, we have been overwhelmed by the number of donations we have received, both monetary and provisions.

We have received substantial amounts of provisions and money throughout the year from local Churches, Glentons Bakery, Lidl, Co-op (Staff and Customers) Schools, Businesses and Individuals, we even had a donation from a Charity Football Event. A letter is sent to each organisation / individual to thank them for their kindness - as we would find it very difficult to operate without their generosity.

Northumberland Forum:

At the beginning of September, Liane attended a course via "Zoom" regarding The Northumberland Forum - and how it worked.

The Forum is a platform used by Health Care Professionals and Members of the Public containing helpful direct links, contact details and general information for a wide variety of Well Being and Health Issue sites. The Library on the Forum website covers everything from; Eating Disorders to Alcohol / Drug Abuse to Foodbanks and Warm Spaces (and much much more).

Although the Bedlington Foodbank is now part of the Forum we do not get many direct referrals - but at least the option is there if the occasion arises.

"Food Table"

The Bedlington Foodbank has continued to support the "Food Table" run by Mike Clarke on a Friday morning at the East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington Station.

Meat Vouchers:

We would like to acknowledge and thank East Bedlington Council for providing "meat vouchers" for families in need, in their area.

Conclusion:

As we move into our second year, the challenges of providing a service to those in need throughout our community continues.

Looking ahead we are actively engaging with as many agencies as we can to try and provide help to the most disadvantaged in society.

Thanks again to our strong team of supporters and volunteers - With your invaluable help, The Bedlington Foodbank is well placed to continue to serve the needs of the local community of Bedlingtonshire.

Thank You Again To You All

The Trustees of the Bedlington Foodbank
(On Behalf of Trustees)

Formal Information:

Bedlington Foodbank is a Registered Charity - Number 1203148

Our Operating Address is from TRINITY CHURCH BEDLINGTON NE22 5TZ

Bedlington Foodbank Trustees are:-

(Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Foodbank's Constitution.)

Chris Elder - Chair

Pauline Fryer - Co-Ordinator

Peter Rand - Treasurer



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Bedlington Foodbank

1203148

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-23

To

31-Dec-23

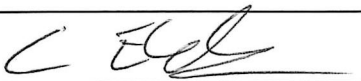
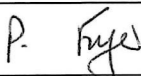
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Funds from Matthew Project	17,174	-	-	17,174	-
St Cuthberts Church Donation	250	-	-	250	-
Lairds House Fundraiser	220	-	-	220	-
Creighton Cup Football Competition	257	-	-	257	-
Stakeford Methodist Church Donation	120	-	-	120	-
Ukelele Band Donation	80	-	-	80	-
50Trinity Church Donation	50	-	-	50	-
Inner Wheel Donation	100	-	-	100	-
D Corner - Football Club Donation	200	-	-	200	-
J Grenfell & Sons Donation	35	-	-	35	-
Individual Donations	1,365	-	-	1,365	-
Other income & Donations	222	-	-	222	-
Sainsburys Grant	500	-	-	500	-
West Bedlington Town Council Grant	4,500	-	-	4,500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25,073	-	-	25,073	-
Total receipts	25,073	-	-	25,073	-
A3 Payments					
Purchase of Food	4,765	-	-	4,765	-
Insurance	204	-	-	204	-
ID Cards	110	-	-	110	-
Donation to Trinity Church	100	-	-	100	-
Gifts for volunteers	320	-	-	320	-
Purchase of equipment	535	-	-	535	-
Mileage paid to volunteers	50	-	-	50	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,084	-	-	6,084	-
Total payments	6,084	-	-	6,084	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	18,989	-	-	18,989	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	18,989	-	-	18,989	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	4	-	-
	Bank	18,985	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,989	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	CHRIS ELDER.	6/4/2024
	PAULINE FRYER	6/4/24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Bedlington Foodbank

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1203148

Set out on pages

1 - 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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

~~The charity'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 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:

7 March 2024

Name:

M. HUMBLE

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

BA FCA BFB

Address:

7 YORK GROVE

BEDLINGTON

NE22 6NX

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.