



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021

Registered Charity Number 1177303

**Company Registration Number CIO13360**

Principal Office      Northgate Hospital  
Morpeth  
NE61 3BP



TRUSTEES: Richard Charles Anderson  
Linda Mary Fugill  
Keith Grimes (resigned 26th August 2021)  
Peter Robertson  
John Rowley  
Sheila Rowley  
Andrew Tebbutt (resigned 26th August 2021)  
John William Watson (resigned 26th August 2021)

TREASURER: John Rowley  
SECRETARY: Richard Anderson/Sheila Rowley

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR Linda Fugill  
ADMINISTRATION CO –ORDINATOR Sheila Rowley

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT (Salaried) Tracey Brown

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Wellway Accountants Limited  
Borough Hall  
Wellway  
Morpeth  
NE61 1BN



## **Chairman's Remarks**

I have pleasure in presenting to you a record of the activities of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank during 2021.

Sadly, this year saw the highest ever need for food from Wansbeck Valley Food Bank (WVFB) in our 9-year history.

2021 has been difficult for many of us. During the past year we have seen more people needing to use the food bank as they are unable to afford the essentials the rest of us take for granted. The devastating economic and personal consequences of the pandemic has tipped more people than ever into a financial crisis and brought them to the doors of the food bank.

The run up to Christmas saw our busiest period ever, with a variety of Christmas extras being added to bags before being distributed to clients. These recipients were identified by our referrers as needing extra help over the Christmas period.

We continue to operate from the Northgate Hospital site and are grateful to CNTW NHS Foundation Trust for their ongoing support.

During the year, 3 of our trustees resigned which reducing the number to 5, I would like to thank them for their support during their time as trustees.

Sadly, as the result of a personal tragedy, one of our job share Administrative Assistants resigned. A full-time appointment has now been made.

I would like to thank Dianne for all her hard work during the time she spent at the Foodbank

WVFB is powered by a small army of volunteers who give their time and talents freely each week. Coming from all ages and backgrounds, the trustees are always astounded by their motivation and commitment which has never been more evident than in the past recent years.

As I reflect on the past year, my feelings are conflicted as I am filled with sadness as more and more people struggle to afford the essentials. I am also deeply concerned of what may lie ahead with impending energy price increases. But I must also be optimistic. The past year has shown the generosity of the community in significant donations of food and cash and the kindness and compassion of businesses and supporters. All of this in the face of the enormous challenge posed to everyone by Covid- 19.

As we hopefully emerge from the pandemic our commitment is stronger and will do everything possible to ensure no one in our community is in need of food.

Richard Anderson

Chair of Trustees



## **Trustees' Report**

### **Objects and Aims**

Wansbeck Valley Food Bank is a registered charity, set up to prevent or relieve poverty or financial hardship in Northumberland. The charity achieves its aims and objectives, in particular but not exclusively by:

- The provision of emergency food parcels, items, services and facilities to individuals in financial need
- Contributing to and co-operating with charities and other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty from within Northumberland.

### **Objectives, strategies and activities**

Because of Covid, the Food Bank has faced a challenging year. We have changed and adapted our working patterns, to ensure the safety and well being of our staff and volunteers, as well as being able to respond effectively and efficiently to all requests for food aid.

Clients have faced furlough, job losses, self-isolation and latterly the removal of the Universal Credit uplift and rising energy prices. The latter giving rise to the phrase 'heat or eat' as the dilemma many are now facing.

Our client delivery service continues, although parcels may be collected from our central hub in Morpeth by prior arrangement. Such deliveries are made using our two dedicated vehicles, however at times of high demand such as supermarket collection days and in the run up to Christmas we hire additional vehicles as needed.

Notwithstanding all the changes and challenges, we continued to provide emergency food parcels to those identified as being in need. All requests were fulfilled.



Regrettably we are seeing evidence of clients using the Food Bank to supplement their income rather than for an emergency. This issue is being monitored and discussed with our partner agencies and we will continue to keep this under review.

Our standard parcels provide food for 3 meals for 3 days for each eligible individual in the household. In special circumstances the number of days food that is provided can be extended. We have found that due to benefit delays we have been requested to issue an increasing number of 7-day parcels for over a period of a few weeks.

When available we often supplement food parcels with bread, cheese, spread, some fresh produce and toiletries.

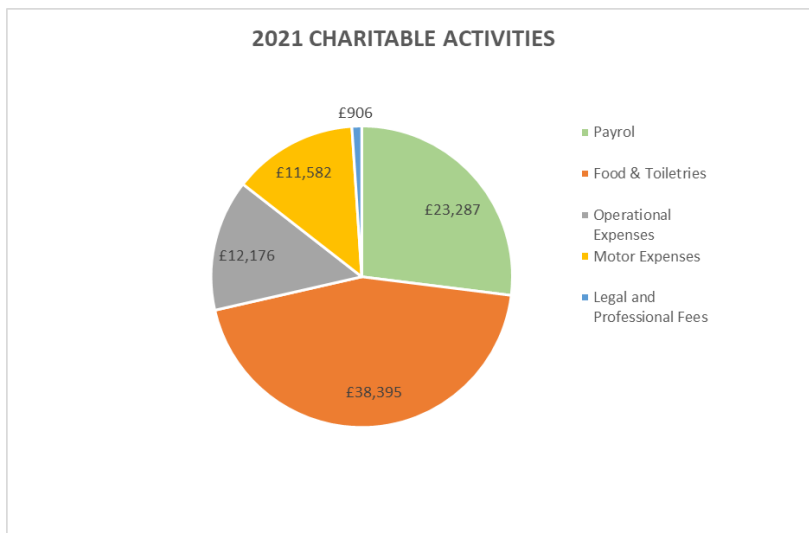
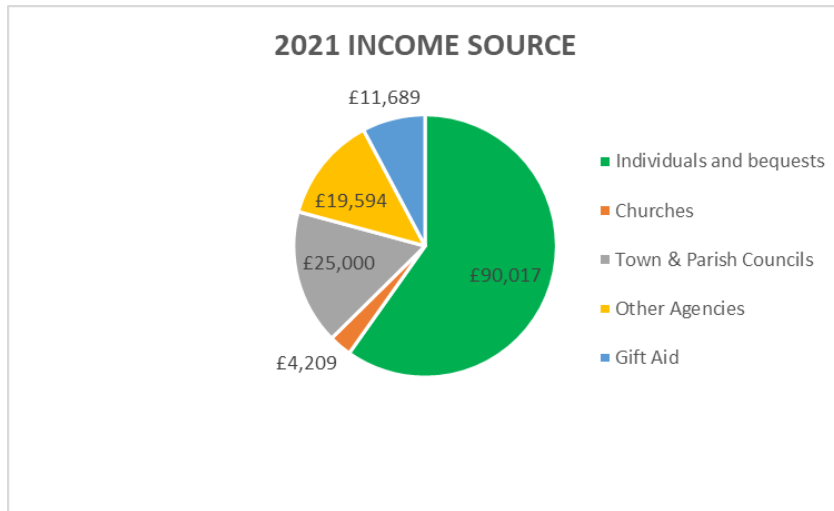
Clients are also offered a Butcher Voucher and a Fruit and Vegetable Voucher when first referred.

We try where possible to cater for clients with special dietary needs, babies, and pets.

We operate from premises at Northgate Hospital. We have sole use of the building.

This provides warehousing, distribution and administrative facilities. We also have two large containers on site which are used for overspill storage.

The food and services we provide are funded by generous cash donations from a range of supporters. It is noticeable that income from local organisations and councils have failed to match increasing client demand on the food bank resources. However, this has been offset by a significant increase in individual donations. This has become our most significant income stream.



As a result of unforeseen circumstances, the previous Administration Job-share arrangement has now become a single full-time appointment thus ensuring continuity and consistency with our volunteers, clients, and referrers.



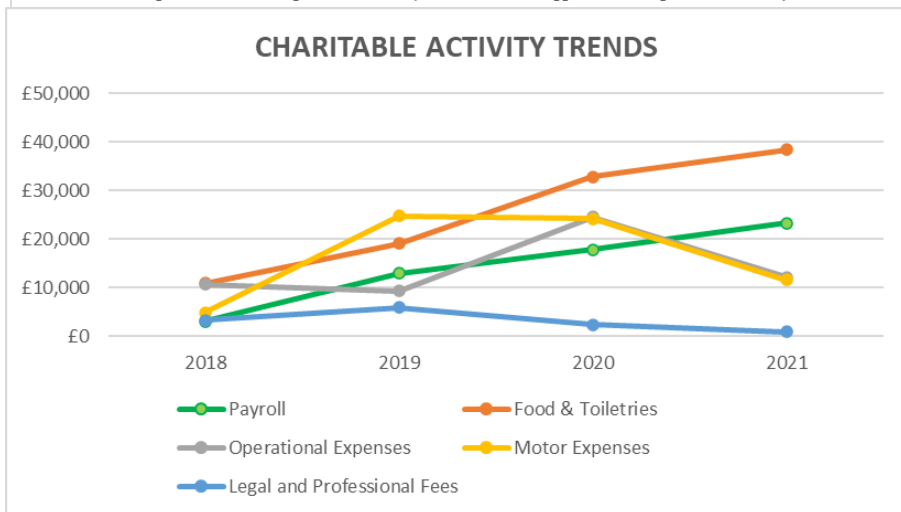
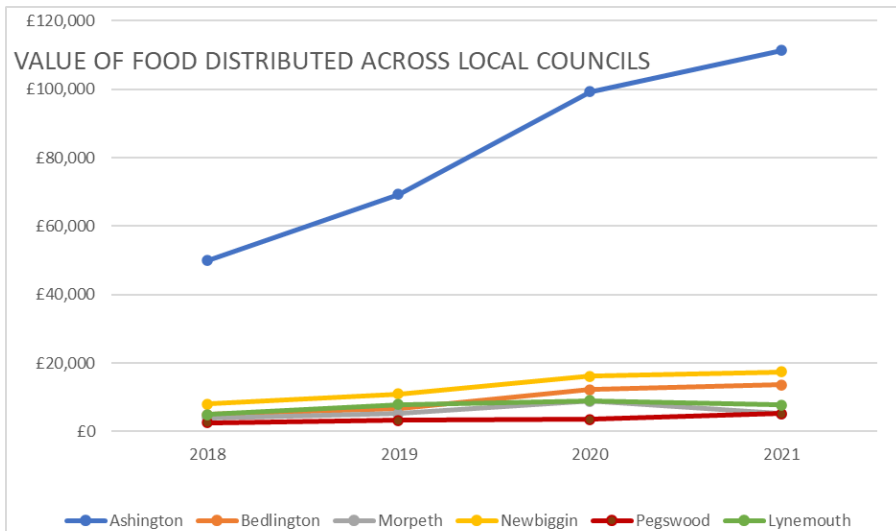
### Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

### Achievements and Performance 2021

During the past year we have provided almost 100,000 meals valued at £192,246









## **Financial Review**

The charity's current account will be maintained at approx. £5000. This can be increased with trustee approval for exceptional items. The deposit account will be maintained for the remaining balances.

### ***Policy on reserves***

The trustees have no defined policy in terms of the levels of resources held. However, the trustees regularly review reserves to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the Food Bank's continuing obligations and to provide our services for a minimum of a 6-month period.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### ***Nature of governing document***

Wansbeck Valley Food Bank is governed by a Constitution of Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

### ***Recruitment and appointment of trustees***

Trustees are appointed at the AGM, however the trustees may appoint a new trustee to temporarily fill a vacancy or to bring in additional skills or experience. Such a trustee will retire at the next AGM but can then be reappointed.

The Trustees, where practicable are involved in the work of the Food Bank.

### ***Organisational structure***

The Trustees had appointed an Operations Team to oversee the day-to-day activities of the Food Bank, however given the constraints imposed by Covid, the Trustees themselves have assumed a more hands-on approach to operations. The responsibilities and duties of the Operations Team will be reviewed post-Covid.

The Annual Report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 20th January 2022 and signed on its behalf by : Revd John Rowley



## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 details of which are summarised here. The full report is available on request.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

As the charity's trustees of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank 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 Wansbeck Valley Food Bank'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 with the examination giving me cause to believe that any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

R Thompson  
ICAEW  
Borough Hall  
Morpeth  
Date 29 March 2021



**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021**

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2020</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	217167	152989
<b>Creditors:</b> Amount falling due within one year*	<u>(2384)</u>	<u>(39)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>214783</u></b>	<b><u>152950</u></b>
 <b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	6833
 <b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	<u>214783</u>	<u>146117</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>214783</u></b>	<b><u>152950</u></b>
 *Creditors falling within one year		
Other Taxation and Social Security	217	-
Other Creditors	77	39
Accruals	<u>2090</u>	-
	<b><u>2384</u></b>	<b><u>39</u></b>



**Wansbeck Valley Food Bank**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	<b>Total Year ended 31 December 2021 £</b>	<b>Total Year ended 31 December 2020 £</b>
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>		
Donations and legacies	150509	197602
Investment income	17	59
Total income	<u>150526</u>	<u>197661</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Raising funds	-	(109)
Charitable activities	(88693)	(101691)
Total expenditure	<u>(88693)</u>	<u>101800</u>
Net movement in funds	61833	95861
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	152950	57089
Total funds carried forward	<u>214783</u>	<u>152950</u>



**Wansbeck Valley Food Bank**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Year ended 31</b>	<b>Year ended 31</b>
	<b>December</b>	<b>December</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><i>Donations and legacies</i></b>		
Legacies and bequests	1994	-
Donations - Individuals	86949	101646
Donations – Churches	4683	7864
Donations Town and Parish Councils	25000	34875
Donations – Collection Boxes	174	153
Donations – Local Business and Clubs	8781	10486
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	11689	3891
Grants – other agencies	11239	28687
Grants—other agencies	-	10000
	<u>150509</u>	<u>197602</u>
 <b><i>Investment income</i></b>		
Interest on cash deposits	<u>17</u>	<u>59</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>59</u>



**Wansbeck Valley Food Bank**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Total Year ended 31 December 2021 £	Total Year ended 31 Decem- ber 2020 £
<b><i>Raising funds</i></b>		
Fundraising costs	-	(109)
	-	<u>(109)</u>
<b><i>Charitable activities</i></b>		
Food and Toiletries	(38401)	(32078)
Packaging	(2008)	(1596)
Wages and Salaries	(16262)	(14475)
Wages and Salaries	(6833)	(3167)
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	(364)	(248)
Rent	(220)	(1320)
Insurance	(584)	(580)
Telephone and Stationery	(4769)	(4365)
Equipment and IT	(758)	(1118)
Printing	(1666)	(802)
Sundry Expenses	(30)	(351)
Northgate Premises Expenses	(2218)	(13832)
Motor Expenses	(11582)	(25298)
Accountancy fees	(2090)	(1896)
Legal and professional fees	(780)	(505)
Bank charges	(126)	(60)
Other interest payable	(2)	-
	<u>(88693)</u>	<u>(101691)</u>



**Notes to the Accounts: (Full details of these can be provided on application)**

The trustees have prepared the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland.

***Financial guarantee contracts***

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

***Tangible fixed assets***

Individual fixed assets purchased are written off in the year of purchase.

The charity owns a van which was transferred on incorporation in 2018. In 2020, a second van and two containers were purchased.

***Trustees remuneration and expenses***

No trustee, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.



## Project Manager's Report

We entered 2021 with Covid 19 restrictions still in place , including social distancing, use of facemasks, sanitising hands and surfaces.

The Foodbank continues to see an increase in demand. Unfortunately, despite the donations received from loyal supporters, this demand still out-stripped donations, so we have had to purchase significant volumes of stock. With the rising fuel prices and other increasing costs of living, many who have just been managing their budget will find it increasingly difficult to keep their heads above water. Therefore we expect evermore people approaching us for support.

Facebook is proving important to us for 2 reasons: both to let people know we are there to help them and also to recruit further supporters of our service. Currently we have over 1600 followers on Facebook.



This year we have been contacted by a number of young fundraisers; it is very encouraging that young people are thinking of others less fortunate and doing something to help. I would like to mention 10 years old Heidi, (pictured here) who I met just after Christmas. Heidi had decided to make and sell Christmas decorations to friends and

family, raising over £100 for us. Still on fundraising, we had 7 places in this year's Great North Run and raised almost £4000: an awesome effort by our fantastic runners.





With the easing of Covid restrictions, we have been able to return to our monthly Asda collections (held on the last Friday of the month). Each collection averages 600-700 kgs of food, ie enough to feed someone for about 8 months. We have drop off points for food donations in many local supermarkets and stores, but are always looking for more.

Working in the Foodbank is very much a team effort, so a big thank you to all our volunteers, both old and new, driving, sorting stock and packing bags for us. A particular thankyou goes to Paul and Janet who have taken on the job of stock control and warehouse management.

Looking back to 2012 when the Foodbank was established we naively expected to only be around for two or three years. How wrong we were. For in November 2022 we will "celebrate "(if that is the right word) our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hopefully there may be a cake.....!

Linda Fugill  
Project Manager



## Message from a Client

I Sean.....

My name's Sean aged 40, single with two young sons who see me often and stay every weekend.

After 20 years of being in long term employment, I have found myself unemployed and having to rely on benefits.

Although my CV is up to date and my skills transferrable, my efforts to secure employment have been a saga of misfortune and have seen me 'messed about'. Contracts have not been signed, no follow up to interviews, and no responses to emails. In some instances, employers have offered a trial run which has turned out to be a period of free labour for them.

In the last 5 years I have seen a massive change to contracts e.g., zero hours, fixed term and agency work.

In the 5 months I have been unemployed I have easily applied for 2000 jobs plus, with the chance of an interview being between 1 in 50 and 1 in 100.

My experience with universal credit has overall been positive and staff have been supportive.

Money wise universal credit is minimal and I budget on £2.50/£5 per day, out of that comes gas & electricity top ups, fuel, & if I had any emergency, car breaking down etc. it would have to stay broken. I'm in rent arrears although I keep the housing association informed to prevent any section 21 being issued. It will take years to be in credit again in a low paying job.

Any job I start I'm in debt from the start with arrears of rent, UC loans, tax due to wrong tax code, family who've loaned me money etc.

Zero social life no pub's, takeaways, no going out it's all come to a halt. I have also learned to keep everything to myself, nobody cares, nobody wants to hear complaining/negativity.



Last but not least "THE FOOD BANK".

Without this Godsend I'd severely struggle massively on all counts.

I just couldn't afford a food shop and getting this help means I don't have to budget in food costs or more importantly starve.

They've helped massively and I'll forever be grateful and I'll return the favour one day with a donation from myself.

Sean.

P.S. Watch the brilliant film/YouTube " I DANIEL BLAKE " it was made here in the north east and it would give you an insight to life on universal credit & foodbanks. It mirrors my experiences.



THANK YOU

TO THE FOLLOWING:

Aldi  
Asda Ashington  
Co-ops  
Morrisons Morpeth  
Poundland  
Sainsburys

Ashington Town Council  
Bedlington East Parish  
Bedlington West Parish  
Choppington Parish Council  
Lynemouth Parish Council  
Morpeth Town Council  
Newbiggin Town Council  
Pegswood Parish Council  
Tritlington & West Chevington Parish Council

Bernicia Foundation  
CELL Project  
Coalfields Regeneration Trust  
Enhance  
IBM  
Lions Club  
Lynemouth Power  
Mary Hollan Trust  
Masonic Charitable Trust  
Morpeth Dispensary  
Morpeth Rotary  
Newcastle Building Society  
[Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)  
Squires Charity  
The Community Foundation  
TMP Wealth Management  
Tranemo Workwear  
TSB  
Unison Northern Branch  
Wansbeck Women Labour Group

Local Churches  
Local Schools

Numerous Individuals