

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 within Northumberland

OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

"In the 12 months to August 2022, domestic gas increased by 96% and domestic electricity prices by 54%. Food prices have also risen, with food and non-alcoholic drinks inflation at 13.1% in August. People's budgets are likely to be under further strain as the Bank of England is expecting inflation to remain over 10% over the next few months." [source House of Commons Library published 18th October 2022]

In line with the increase in the cost of living, the Food Bank continues to see a corresponding growth in the use of our services. As expected, those already reliant on benefits or experiencing problems with health, accommodation, family circumstances or a combination of these factors are the most likely to make use of our resources.

It is noticeable that 77% of our clients are returning to us on a regular basis indicating no immediate resolution to their situation. It is also apparent that some are using the Food Bank to supplement their income rather than for an emergency. We continue to monitor and liaise with our partner agencies on how best to assist our clients needs in such circumstances.

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 provided can be extended. In 2022 the issue of 7 day parcels increased by 44%.

When available we often supplement food parcels with bread, cheese, spread, some fresh produce and toiletries. We try where possible to cater for clients with special dietary needs, babies, and pets.

Surprisingly many clients have chosen not to avail themselves of our Meat, Fruit and Vegetable voucher scheme. We greatly appreciate the local businesses who over the years have facilitated this initiative but because of lack of uptake we have withdrawn this facility.

The volume of food donations has not increased in line with demand. Consequently, the value of food purchased in 2022 has increased by almost 40%. Fortunately, this has been made possible through a corresponding increase in financial support from individuals, local businesses and a variety of organisations.

Currently we operate out of our central distribution hub generously provided by the Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. In partnership with the Ashington branch of the YMCA we also offer a local collection point in their premises located in central Ashington. Since establishing this arrangement 45% of clients choose to collect from here.

Our client delivery service continues with the use of 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.

Our operation is entirely dependent on the continuing and incredible generosity of the community in terms of food and financial donations. We are totally indebted to our faithful team of volunteers whose efforts in sorting, stacking and delivering food are essential to our operation.

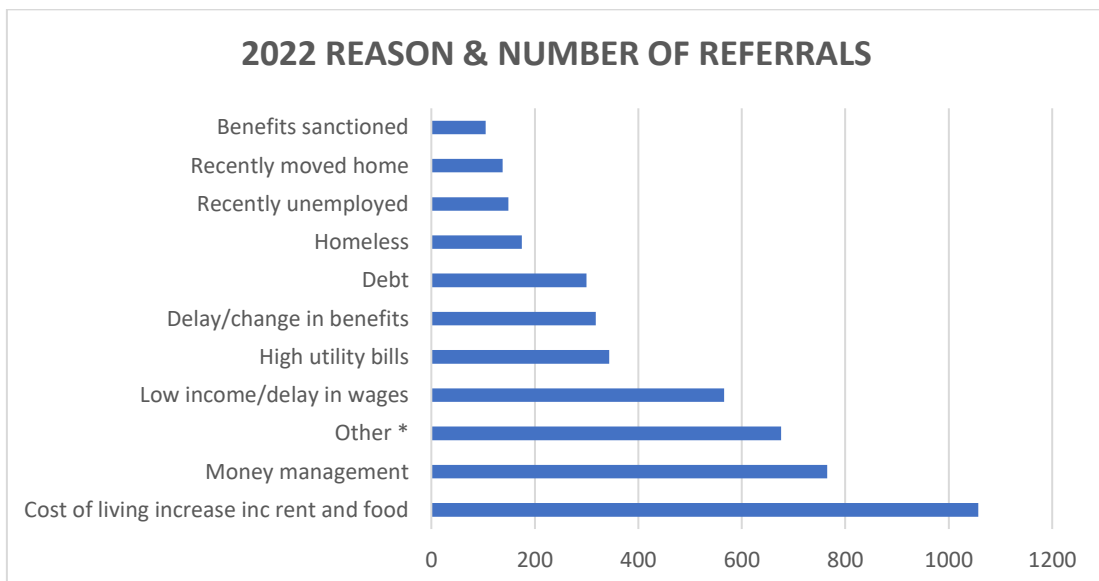
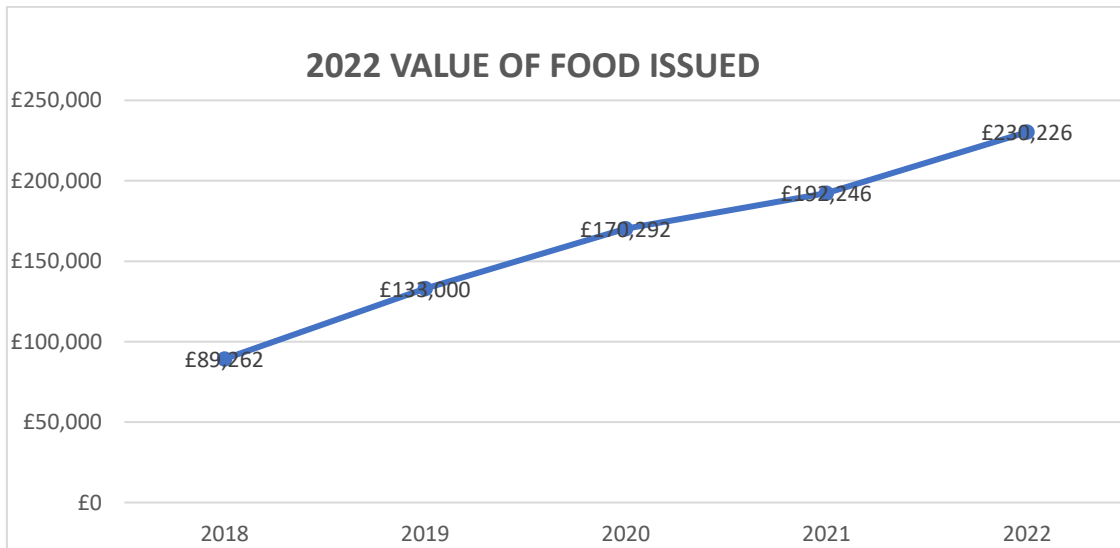
Notwithstanding all the increasing challenges, we continued to provide emergency food parcels to those identified as being in need. All requests were fulfilled.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

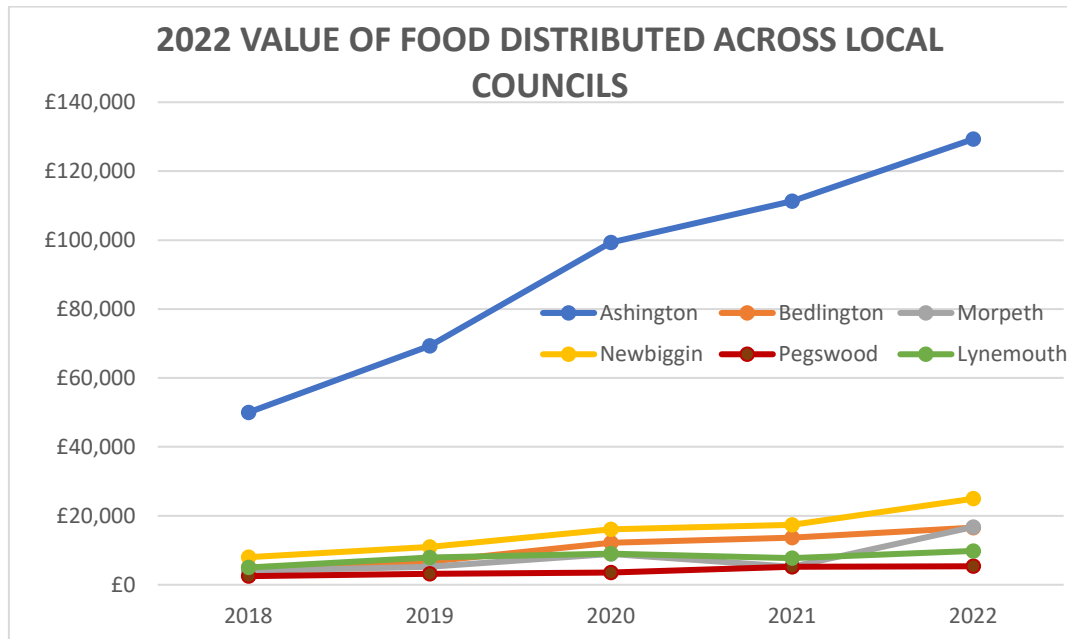
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance 2022

This year we have supplied 115,113 meals valued in total £230,226. This being a 20% increase on the previous year. Of those clients needing support, 23% are first-time clients.

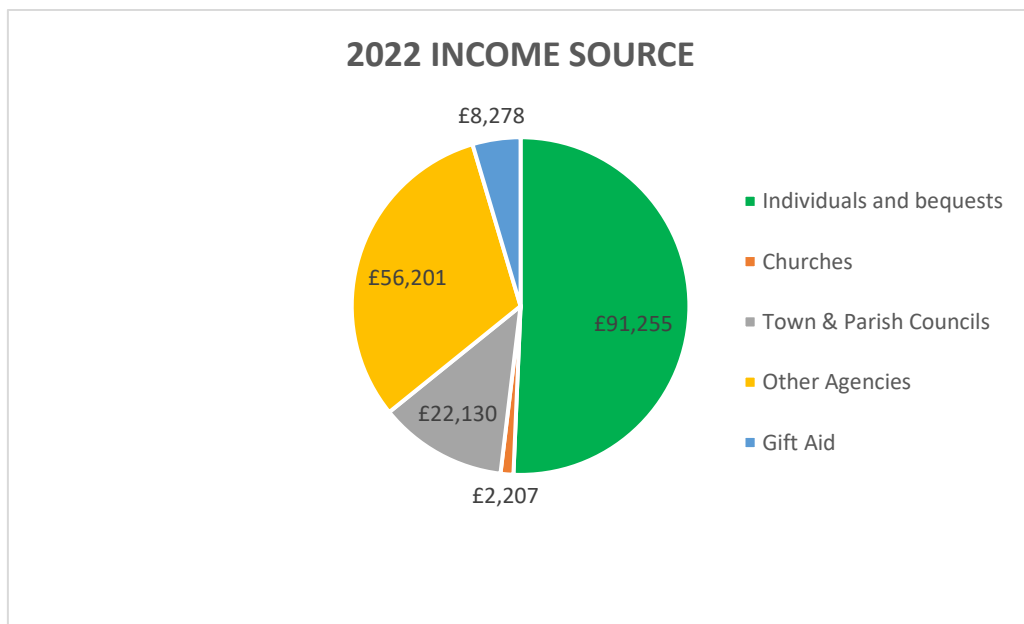


Other* - includes; Financial Exploitation, Power Cut/storm, Universal Credit Uplift, Bereavement/funeral costs, Not eligible for benefits, School holidays, Refugee/asylum seeker, Fleeing domestic violence, Recently left prison, Lost/Stolen Money, Universal Credit, Christmas, Covid 19

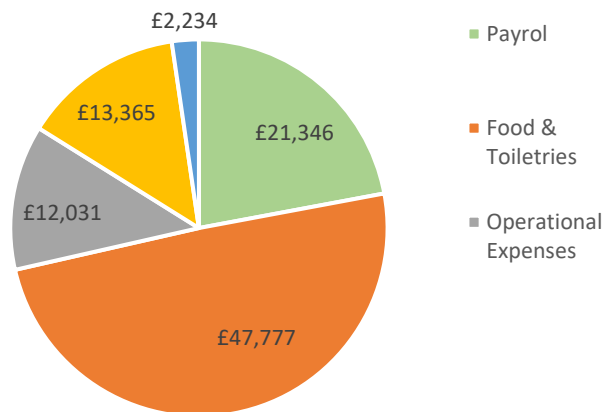


FINANCIAL REVIEW

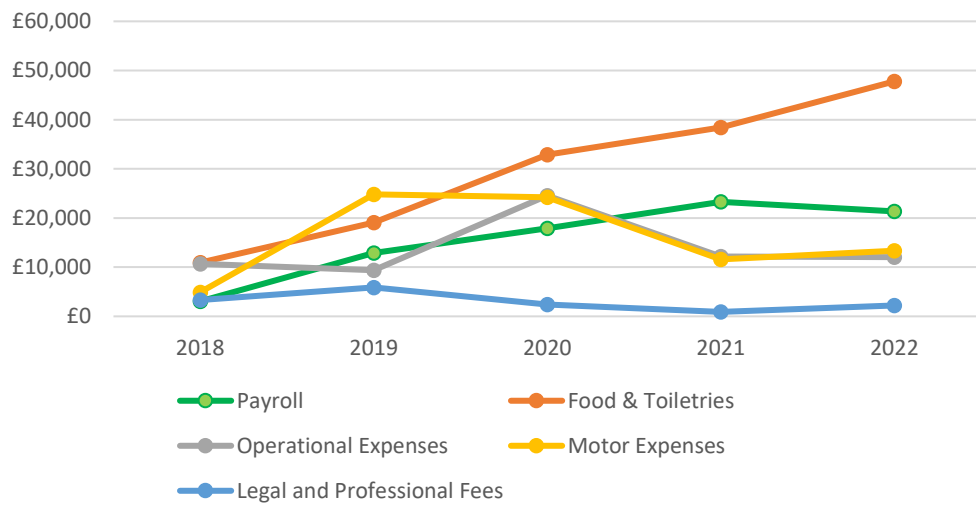
The charity's current account will be maintained at approx. £6000. This can be increased with trustee approval for exceptional items. The deposit account will be maintained for the remaining balances.



2022 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES



2022 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY TRENDS



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.

The tenancy agreement with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust is due to expire early in 2023. The Food Bank will need to relocate to new premises and provision has been made in our reserves to cover the cost of this move.

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

Given the increased demands on the Food Bank the Trustees have recently appointed a salaried Food Bank Co-ordinator who provides front line contact with referrers/clients and oversees the day-to-day activities of the Food Bank. A cohort of 60 volunteers overseen by an Operations Team are the mainstay of the entire operation.

Given the increased demands on the Food Bank the Trustees intend to implement a review of the operational structure and function to ensure best possible service to our clients and to make certain we continue to fulfil our governance obligations.

The Annual Report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 19th January 2023 and signed on its behalf by: Revd John Rowley