



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Registered Charity Number 1177303

Company Registration Number CIO13360

Principal Office Northgate Hospital
Morpeth
NE61 3BP



TRUSTEES: Richard Charles Anderson
Linda Mary Fugill
Peter Robertson
John Rowley
Sheila Rowley (resigned 31 December 2022)
Mark Facey (appointed 8 December 2022)

TREASURER: John Rowley
SECRETARY: Tracey Brown

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

FOOD BANK CO-ORDINATOR (Salaried)	Tracey Brown
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Wellway Accountants Limited Borough Hall Wellway Morpeth NE61 1BN
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Chairman's Remarks

Sadly, this past year has yet again been one of great challenges. Coming after the pandemic and cost of living crisis this has resulted in the highest ever need for food from Wansbeck Valley Food Bank (WVFB) in our 10-year history.

I would like to pay tribute to all those volunteers of the Food Bank. Those of long service and those who are new to us. For you, your commitment and efforts, the Trustees and the communities you serve are truly grateful. Also, to Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne & Wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust for allowing use of their building as a warehouse.

During 2022, in partnership with Ashington branch of the YMCA, we now have a local collection point in their premises which is located in central Ashington. Many clients are now able to collect food parcels.

In 2023 the Food Bank will be relocating as our lease, at the current premises expires and the land that the warehouse sits on has been sold to a developer.

One of our longest serving trustees, Sheila Rowley, has very recently stood down. Sheila was one of the original team who first established the Food Bank. She has worked tirelessly during her 10 years and we all would like to thank her for the considerable amount of time she has spent to enhance the smooth running of the Food Bank. We wish her all the best for the future.

In the next few months, we hope to have additional trustees joining us. This will help expand the skill set and experience within the trustees as we look forward, making appropriate plans for the future of the Food Bank.

During 2023 I look forward with hope that things can and must change for the better but in the meantime the Food Bank will continue to offer help, to everyone and anyone who is facing hardship, with compassion.

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 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.



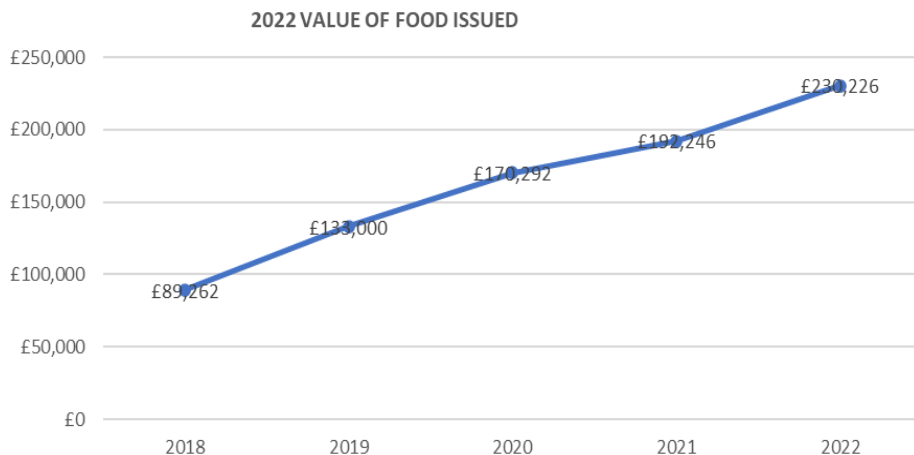
Notwithstanding all the increasing challenges, we continued to provide emergency food parcels to those identified as being in need. All requests were fulfilled.

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.

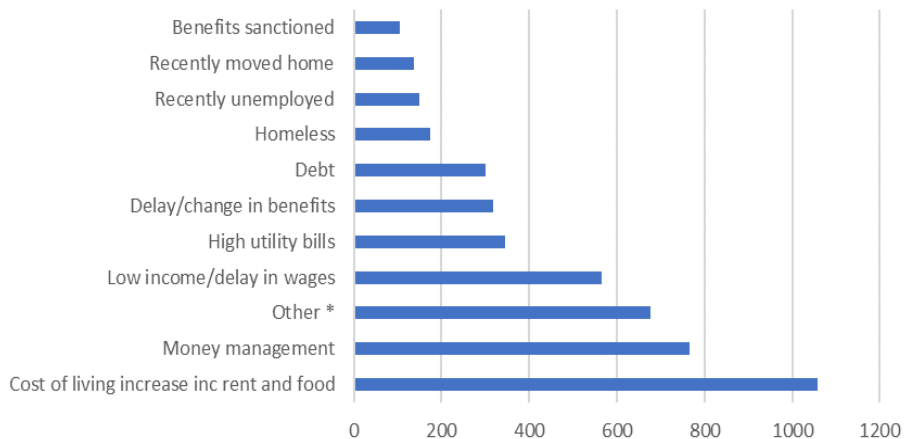
Achievements and performance 2022

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.



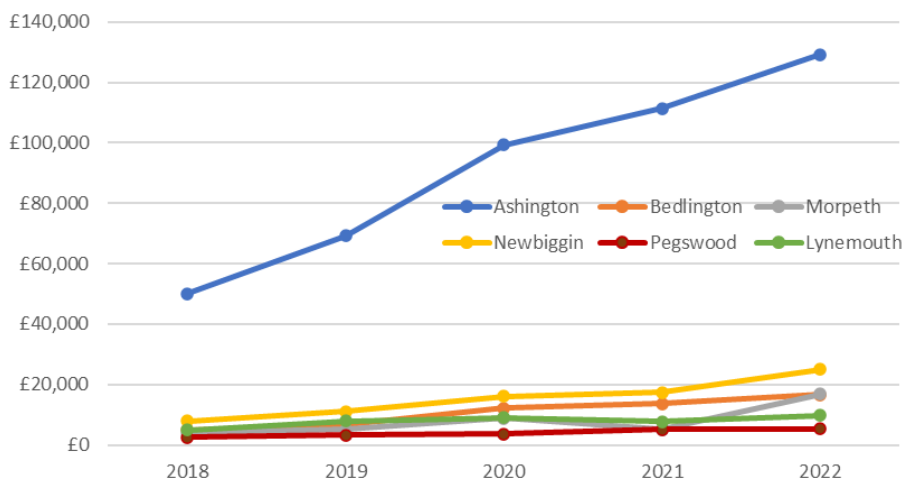


2022 REASON & NUMBER OF REFERRALS



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

2022 VALUE OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED ACROSS LOCAL COUNCILS

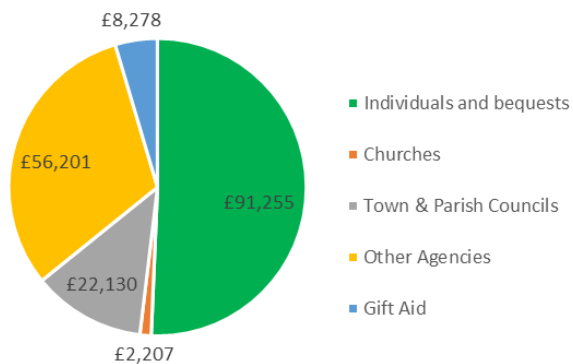




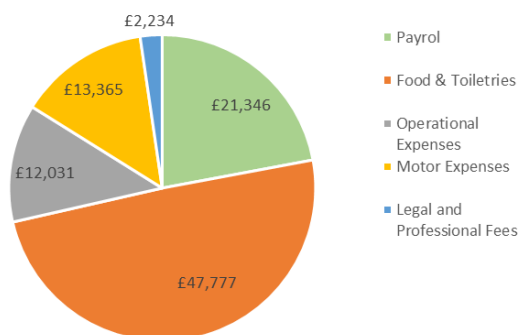
FINANCIAL REVIEW

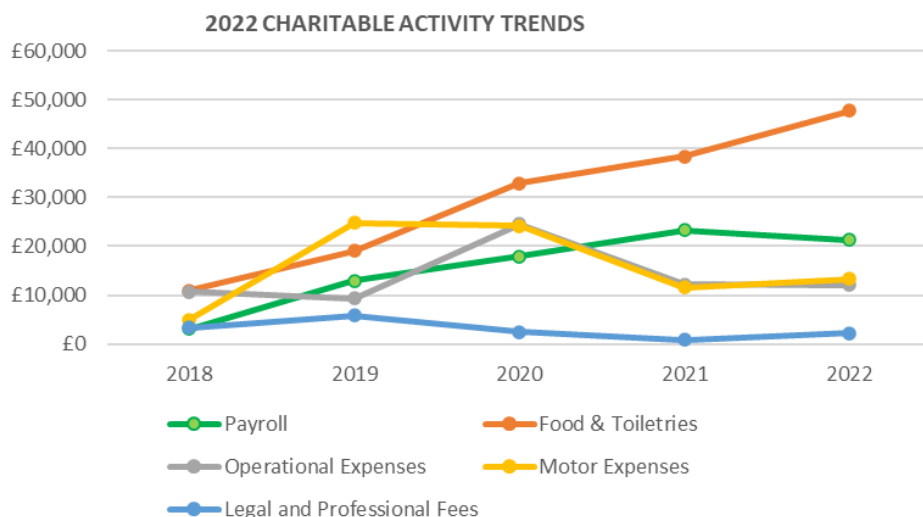
The charity's current account will be maintained at approx. £6000. This can be increased with trustee approval for exceptional items. The deposit account will be maintained for the remaining balances.

2022 INCOME SOURCE



2022 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES





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 1st March 2023 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 2022 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
Wellway
Morpeth
Northumberland NE61 1BN
Date 1 March 2023



Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

Current Assets	Year ended 31 December 2022	Year ended 31 December 2021
Cash at bank and in hand	301413	217167
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year*	<u>(1993)</u>	<u>(2384)</u>
Net Assets	<u>299420</u>	<u>214783</u>

Funds of the Charity

Restricted Funds	-	-
Unrestricted Income Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	<u>299420</u>	<u>214783</u>
Total Funds	<u>299420</u>	<u>214783</u>

*Creditors falling within one year

Other Taxation and Social Security	(321)	217
Other Creditors	99	77
Accruals	<u>2215</u>	<u>2090</u>
	<u>1993</u>	<u>2384</u>



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Total Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total Unrestrict- ed funds 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	180071	150509
Investment income	926	17
Total income	<u>180997</u>	<u>150526</u>
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	(902)	-
Charitable activities	(95458)	(81860)
Total expenditure	<u>(96360)</u>	<u>(81860)</u>
Net income	<u>84637</u>	<u>68666</u>
Net movement in funds	84637	68666
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	214783	146117
Total funds carried forward	<u>299420</u>	<u>214783</u>



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Legacies and bequests	-	1994
Donations - Individuals	91255	86949
Donations – Churches	2207	4683
Donations Town and Parish Councils	22130	25000
Donations – Collection Boxes	-	174
Donations – Local Business and Clubs	18496	8781
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	8278	11689
Grants – other agencies	37705	11239
Grants—other agencies	-	-
	<u>180071</u>	<u>150509</u>
 <i>Investment income</i>		
Interest on cash deposits	<u>926</u>	<u>17</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Period
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Total	Total
	2022	2021
	£	£
<i>Raising funds</i>		
Fundraising costs	<u>902</u>	=
	=	=
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Food and Toiletries	(47277)	(38401)
Packaging	(2939)	(2008)
Wages and Salaries	(20403)	(16262)
Wages and Salaries	-	(6833)
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	(425)	(364)
Rent	(324)	(220)
Insurance	(578)	(584)
Telephone and Stationery	(2088)	(4769)
Equipment and IT	(633)	(758)
Printing	(2081)	(1666)
Sundry Expenses	(366)	(30)
Northgate Premises Expenses	(2444)	(2218)
Motor Expenses	(13540)	(11582)
Accountancy fees	(2230)	(2090)
Legal and professional fees	-	(780)
Bank charges	(129)	(126)
Other interest payable	(1)	(2)
	<u>(95458)</u>	<u>(88693)</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.



Poverty in Wansbeck Area and where Wansbeck Valley Food Bank figures

In the past decade, the number of households going without the absolute basics has been growing at an alarming rate. The recent report on UK Poverty 2022 produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, indicates that around 1.8 million children are growing up in very deep poverty, meaning that the household income is so low that it is completely inadequate to cover the basics.



Paediatricians at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health warn - hunger can have a significant impact on children's health. Lack of vitamins, nutrients, and proteins leads to compromised immune systems and exposure to illness and disease. Food poverty also has an impact on their mental health

In Wansbeck area there are 5313 children growing up in households experiencing food poverty. This is an increase of 37 per cent between 2015 and 2020. In 2022 Wansbeck Valley Food Bank supplied food to 3454 children – a 16 per cent increase on the previous year. Should parents be able afford a ticket, these children would almost fill Newcastle Theatre Royal to capacity 3 times over.

There are many explanations why clients come to us but by far the most predominate reason is down to the cost-of-living increase. *[All the other reasons are illustrated on page 7 of this report.]*





Wansbeck Valley Food Bank is only one of 5000 plus food banks and organisations committed to relieving food poverty in the UK. That there are no signs of the need for food aid reducing gives concern our services are becoming institutionalised.

Clearly when the foodbank was formed, becoming a permanent community fixture was never part of our original intention. Fixing food poverty is outside the means of the food bank organisation – we can only feed the hungry as best we can and leave it to higher authorities to get to the root cause of this distressing situation.



Together with the Trussell Trust and Feeding Britain, the Independent Food Aid Network [IFAN] - of which we are a member, delivered a joint letter to 10 Downing Street on Monday 17th October 2022. It reads

Dear Prime Minister

End the need for our services – charitable food aid is not the solution to financial hardship.

We run, volunteer and work in many of the thousands of food banks, food pantries, food clubs, social supermarkets, soup kitchens and community kitchens in communities across the UK.

Over the last decade, increasing numbers of people have been pushed to the doors of food banks and other charitable food aid providers because they haven't got enough money to buy food and other essentials. Since the cut to Universal Credit in October 2021 and the deepening cost of living crisis, the need for charitable food aid has steadily increased, reaching unprecedented levels.

People who were already unable to afford food are being hit the hardest by relentless rises in energy, food, and travel costs. Every day we meet people who are skipping meals so they can feed their children and turning off their cooker or fridge so they can cover other essential costs. People who used to donate to food banks are now needing to seek our support. And the next 12 months look bleaker still.

Many of our teams are struggling to cope as demand for our support outstrips our food and financial donations and we are forced to make difficult decisions about how we operate. We are overstretched and exhausted. Many of our organisations are at breaking point.



No-one should have to turn to charity to feed themselves and their families.

You have the power to reduce the need for our services.

As our new Prime Minister, we call on you to take urgent action to end the need for charitable food aid by ensuring everyone has enough income, from work and social security, to buy the essentials.

Yours sincerely

Meanwhile





THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

Aldi Ashington
Asda Ashington
Asda Foundation
Local Co-ops
Morrisons Morpeth
Poundland Ashington
Sainsburys Neighbourly Grant
Sainsburys Morpeth

Ashington Town Council
Bedlington West Parish Council
Choppington Parish Council
Morpeth Town Council
Newbiggin Town Council
Northumberland County Council

Bernicia Foundation
Charities Trust
County Durham Community Foundation
Groundwork UK
Henriksen Trust
Labour Group Morpeth
Lions Club of Morpeth
Masonic Charitable Trust
Masonic Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund
Morpeth Clock Tower Bell Ringers Society
Morpeth Dispensary
National Union of Farmers
Newbiggin Amateur Pantomime Society
Newcastle Building Society
North East Organic
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Poundland
Rotary Morpeth
South East Northumberland Friendship Centre
The Maritime Centre Newbiggin
Tranemo Workwear
Tyne and Wear Community Foundation
Unite Tyne & Wear Branch
Women's Institute Morpeth Town

Local Churches
Local Schools

Numerous Individuals