



Impact Report

01st Jan to 30th June 2026

**A review of service delivery,
community impact
and organisational progress**



www.wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org | Charity No. 1177303

OVERVIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN



John
Rowley



The first six months of 2026 have shown both the scale of need across our communities and the strength of the response made possible through local generosity, partnership working and committed volunteers. During this period, Wansbeck Valley Food Bank has continued to provide practical support to individuals and families facing hardship, while also strengthening the systems, relationships and resources that make that support possible.

This report outlines the progress made between 1st of January and 30th of June 2026. It highlights our financial position, the investment made in services and operations, the values that guide our work, and the priorities that will shape the months ahead. Behind every figure is a person, a household or a community connection, and we remain committed to responding with compassion, dignity and hope.

We are grateful to every volunteer, donor, partner organisation and supporter who has contributed to this work. Their commitment has enabled us not only to meet immediate need, but also to keep building a stronger, more sustainable service for the future.



VALUES AND AIMS

OUR VALUES

Our values shape the way we work every day. They influence how we welcome people, how we respond to needs and how we build trust across our communities.

Our aim is to provide timely, practical support to people experiencing food poverty, while working alongside partners to reduce hardship, strengthen community connections and create a more hopeful future for those we serve.



COMPASSION & SUPPORT

We will support those in need by showing compassion and respect.



HOPE & DIGNITY

We will work to provide hope of a more stable situation which restores dignity to our clients.



COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY

We will work alongside other partner organisations and individuals across our community to alleviate poverty and provide hope for a brighter future.

INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

During this reporting period, investment has focused on strengthening the Food Bank's capacity to respond effectively, improving day-to-day operations and building a more resilient service for the future. This has included practical improvements to the way stock, donations, referrals and local partnerships are coordinated.

Growth is not only about scale, but also about effectiveness. Strengthened processes, clearer communication and increased collaboration with community partners all contribute to a service that is better able to respond to changing levels of need. These developments provide a stronger foundation for both immediate support and longer-term planning.

Areas of progress during this period include:



Improved coordination of stock and supplies



Continued development of local referral and partnership links



Better planning for operational costs and service continuity



Greater focus on resilience, sustainability and future readiness

STATISTICS



1,729

Referrals



2,519

Adults



624

Children



128

Homeless



4,656

Volunteer
hours



20,421

Meals



£43,867

Total value



250+

Community-based
partners

The statistics shown above cover the period from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 and reflect the support provided during the first five months of the year.

Alongside food provision, we also support clients with specific dietary and practical needs, including halal, vegetarian and gluten-free options. We provide additional items for families where needed, such as nappies, baby food and formula, as well as toiletries and household cleaning bags. Our homeless clients receive a tailored parcel designed to meet more immediate circumstances, which includes a £5.00 Greggs voucher to give them the choice of a hot meal.

Your support means our friends and neighbours don't have to make impossible choices between food and other essentials like heating and school uniforms.

THE WAY FORWARD



David Lea
Vice Chairman

The months ahead will require continued focus, collaboration and adaptability. Demand remains high, and the wider pressures affecting households are unlikely to ease quickly. In response, Wansbeck Valley Food Bank will continue to strengthen its partnerships, improve service coordination and ensure that support remains accessible, practical and compassionate. The major challenges continue to be sourcing the volumes of food that we require at a realistic price. At the same time we try to source our food where possible from local suppliers.

In addition, now that we have been established for just over a year in our new premises, we are giving some thought to fine tuning the layout of the warehouse to make the process of receiving goods, making up bags and despatching them to clients more efficient.



"Our priority is not only to respond to immediate need, but to keep building a service that offers dignity, reliability and hope."

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PRIORITIES



Alongside direct provision, the Food Bank's impact is seen in the wider strength of its local relationships, volunteer contribution and commitment to dignified support. The next stage of development will focus on sustaining core provision, strengthening operational systems and ensuring that the organisation remains responsive to changing community needs.

Priority Area	Current Focus	Next Steps
Operations	Support volunteers and improve service processes	Build resilience, consistency and future readiness
Food provision	Maintain reliable stock and distribution	Improve forecasting and supply coordination
Partnerships	Deepen joint working with agencies and community groups	

PARTNERSHIPS

SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Food Bank is also supported by many local businesses, schools and churches through regular food donations. In addition, our coordinators give talks to schools and community groups to raise awareness of our mission and the realities of food poverty. This includes visits to organisations such as Scouts, Brownies and Rainbows, helping to build understanding and encourage local involvement from an early age.

FOOD PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

We work in partnership with **Everyturn Mental Health** by giving monthly food support to stock their food pantry at The Bothy in Ashington, supporting any client including those who are homeless who need food support urgently.



PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDING AND RETAIL FOOD DRIVES

We are grateful for the support of our local town councils, whose funding helps sustain the work of the Food Bank. We have been awarded £5000.00 from Ashington Town Council.



We also collaborate monthly with ASDA Ashington on food drives, where volunteers hand out leaflets and encourage customers to donate an additional item with their shopping. So far this year, items donated through these collections are equivalent to 3,226 meals.

Morrisons in Morpeth also supports the Food Bank through Grab Bags that customers can purchase in store and donate, contributing 1,211 Grab Bags so far this year.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

We also benefit from strong support from corporate and community partners. Nissan Sunderland supports us for ten months of the year in Ashington by providing workers to volunteer at our ASDA food drives.

Handelsbanken in Morpeth has supported the Food Bank through corporate volunteer days and, last year, a quiz night that raised £1,862.50.

PARTNERSHIPS



The Lions of Morpeth have been long-standing supporters through funding and, more recently, have contributed £200.00 towards Greggs vouchers for homeless clients, and £300.00 towards our Hospital to Home parcels, enabling clients to receive an additional Ringtons gift box of tea, coffee and luxury biscuits. A local School in Ashington Bishops School, supported the Food Bank parcels for our hospital to home clients by making get well cards.

Next Steps

Develop client interface to provide practical guidance to address immediate crises and build longer-term financial resilience.

VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our volunteers are the backbone of the Food Bank, and all 60 of our volunteers play a vital role in making sure the service can operate week in, week out. We are continually grateful for the time, energy and care they give. Their support spans a wide range of roles, including packing bags in the warehouse for distribution, driving, supporting drivers as buddies, working at distribution hubs and helping at our monthly food drives.

We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers and continue to grow our Board of Trustees to support the future development of the Food Bank. We have also been supported by Jason Thompson, who produced an end-to-end video showing a day in the life of the Food Bank and the wide range of activities involved across the service. This will be on our website by the end of October.

"I love being part of something that makes a real difference in people's lives."

Kay - WVFB Driver

"Volunteering has given me a sense of purpose and the Food Bank runs like clock work very well organised"

Kevin - WVFB Warehouse

"It's amazing to see the gratitude on people's faces when they receive their parcels."

George - WVFB Driver

"The team spirit here is wonderful - we have an amazing team of volunteers"

Claire - WVFB Senior Coordinator

USEFUL CONTACTS



**How to get support if you need it - from
Citizens Advice - Call- 01670 618029**

Benefits

Pension Credit

Attendance Allowance

Debt

Winter Fuel

Energy Advice

National Gambling Support Network

**Is gambling getting in the way of the life you want to live?
Contact NECA 0191 562 3309**

AGE UK

**Free advice for the over 50's, their families, carers, and organisations
Helping over 50's in Northumberland live their best life**

**Housing and home adaptations, disability aids, wills and power of attorney, welfare benefits
Lines are open Monday to Friday 10am - 3pm Tel 01670 784 800**

**Northumberland Communities Together
Telephone 01670 620015**