

# BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR AND MPS VISIT GATESHEAD FOODBANK

In October we received a visit to our main distribution centre from the Mayor Of Gateshead, Councillor Kath McCartney. The Mayor was welcomed by our Deputy Project Manager, Rebekah Scott and our Organising Local Mobilisation, Diane Kindred who together spent time explaining Gateshead Foodbank's work to the Mayor and how we operate. The Mayor was impressed by everything she heard. These pictures show her in our distribution centre stock room with Rebekah and Diane, and being shown some of the food items we offer to Foodbank users in addition to the standard food parcels which we provide.

Over recent months we have received visits by the Blaydon and Consett MP, Liz Twist and by the MP for Gateshead Central and Whickham, Mark Ferguson. In September and October, the MP for Jarrow, Kate Osborne come to our Gateshead distribution centre and Sharon Hodgson, MP for Washington and Gateshead South visited our Birtley distribution centre. We are delighted that our local representatives in Parliament are listening to the issues being faced by people facing food poverty in Gateshead.



## TRUSSELL'S BRAND REFRESHED



Our umbrella organisation, Trussell Trust has a new name, a new logo and a new strapline. Its old brand identity was created over 20 years ago and the charity has grown and changed significantly since then. What worked in the early 2000s was creating barriers today. They needed to change this. The brand refresh was co-designed with people with lived experience of hardship and foodbanks working on the frontline.

The name has been changed simply to Trussell, and the new logo is pictured here. The new strapline is Ending Hunger Together.

The Trussell website has also been updated to be more accessible and provide a smoother online support journey that makes it easier to find a local foodbank and understand how to access emergency food. Alongside updates to the name and logo, Trussell has also updated its fonts, colours and visuals so they are clearer and more accessible. Not only that, but this brand refresh has reduced additional costs for Trussell's community of 1,400 foodbanks (including Gateshead Foodbank) such as font licenses and helped remove complicated workarounds to challenges posed with the previous visual identity.



## PRAYER POINTS

**Please pray for the fulfilment of our vision of a future without the need for foodbanks;**

Please pray that God would inspire individuals, organisations and communities to get involved in making this a reality; and

Please pray for creative ideas and fruitful partnerships, and that we would see churches, individuals, communities, businesses, politicians and public servants coming together to build a hunger free future where no one goes hungry.

## CONGRATULATIONS SAVANNAH

This is a picture of nine year old Savannah from Old Fold. She's been fundraising for Gateshead Foodbank and Cash for Kids for the last two years and so far, has donated about £3,000 worth of food to the Foodbank and toys for Cash for Kids from the money which she's raised. It all began when Savannah was aged seven. She was hoping to replace her Barbie Dreamhouse and asked her Mum, Amy if she could sell her old version of the toy and use the money raised to buy toys for children who don't have any toys of their own. Savannah's family were already giving regular food donations to the Foodbank at supermarkets. This led to Savannah beginning to raise money for Gateshead Foodbank and she's been continuing with it ever since. Her fundraising activities have included taking part in the Junior Great North Run, organising regular raffles of chocolate, selection boxes and drinks both for family and friends as well as on line, taking part in our supermarket collections and getting Tesco and Morrisons supermarkets to make food donations. Over the last few months, Savannah has raised over £700 which she's used to buy selection boxes for the Foodbank as well as toys for Cash for Kids. She donates selection boxes at Christmas time and Easter eggs at Easter for the Foodbank. Savannah's efforts were recognised at an award ceremony in June when she won Gateshead Council's Young Achiever Award. She was the youngest person to receive an award that year. She was also presented with a Kindness Award by her Primary School. On top of her fundraising efforts, Savannah has visited our warehouse to learn about how we work and to help with packing food parcels. We're really grateful to Savannah for her understanding of the fact that there's many people in Gateshead with so little to live on and for all of her work in raising money to buy food donations.



## LATEST STATISTICS

In the last two months (September and October 2024), Gateshead Foodbank has provided emergency food to a total of 1,238 people. Of these, 880 were adults and 358 were children. This is fewer people that we fed in the same two months last year, during which we handed out food parcels to a total of 1479 people.

We'd love to hear from readers on how they're working towards Trussell's goal of Ending Hunger Together. Please let us know using the email below to feature in our next edition. Thanks.

**1238**

**people were helped with emergency food.**

**880**

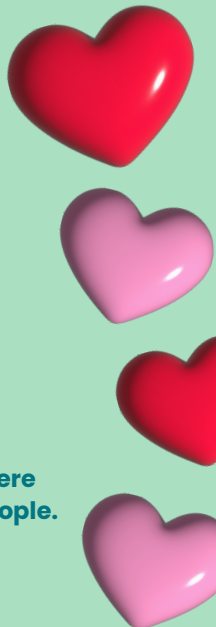
**adults were supported.**

**358**

**children were supported.**

**1479**

**food parcels were handed out to people.**



# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Every December we hand out a Christmas hamper to each Foodbank user, on top of the regular food parcel of seven days' nutritious food a person. This is to add something special to peoples' Christmases, and to show that someone cares.

This year we are expecting to give out about 400 hampers in total. As you can imagine, it takes an awful lot of organisation and hard work to make up so many hampers. We have therefore already bought in the contents (such as Christmas cake, shortbread, tinned ham, nuts and snacks, pickled onions, mince pies, savoury crackers, Christmas puddings, custard and so on). In November our volunteers and corporate partners will together spend a total of 40 hours in filling each hamper.

The cost of these hampers has been paid out of the Foodbank's financial reserves. In addition, we know from past years' experience that the run up to Christmas is a particularly busy time for the Foodbank, with many families struggling to put food on the table and heat their homes as well as buy presents for their children. We would therefore welcome any financial donations to help us to cover these costs. Details of the different ways in which you can donate are on our website ([gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](http://gateshead.foodbank.org.uk)).



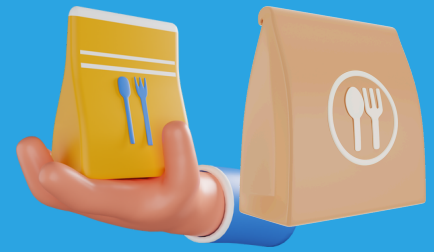
## FINANCIAL INCLUSION SERVICE: QUARTERLY REPORT

As we have covered in previous editions of this newsletter, Gateshead Foodbank provides funding to Citizens Advice Gateshead (CAG) to deliver specialist financial inclusion advice and casework to users of the Foodbank who are identified as potentially benefiting from financial and related advice. CAG offers advice and support on a range of issues, such as income maximisation, budgeting and formal debt solutions (including debt management plans and insolvency options). Foodbank users can also be referred into the CAG's wider social welfare services such as housing, employment rights, debt, family and relationship and crisis support. The objective behind the financial inclusion service is to help people to move on from using the Foodbank, so that going forward they have no need to use the Foodbank again.

CAG produces reports about the service delivery every quarter. The latest report covers the three months from 1st July to 30th September 2024. Over that period, CAG received 63 new referrals into the service from the Foodbank and dealt with 140 advice issues. Debt was the largest advice area managed during this period. The service reported total financial gains for Foodbank users of £60,718.

CAG have estimated that the intervention of this service will result in nine of those people helped not requiring further assistance from the Foodbank in the future. In the longer term, CAG will work with the staff and volunteers at Gateshead Foodbank to monitor whether clients who access this service return to the foodbank within 6 months. If clients do return to the Foodbank, CAG will look into the reasons for this and whether there is any further support we can offer to those individuals.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARVEST GIFTS



This October we've been fortunate to receive many kind donations of food from Churches and Schools across Gateshead. There isn't room to name everyone who's given food, but our donors include Fellside Church, Wrekenton Methodist Church, Hope Community Church, Emmanuel College, Centenary Methodist Church, Crawcrook and St Marys Church, Whickham. Please go to our Facebook page to see photos of food being delivered to our warehouse on Team Valley. We've received almost 800 KG in Harvest donations with more donations expected, we hoping to reach a ton in total!

In the meantime our next Supermarket collection will be at Tesco, Trinity Square on **Thursday, 28th November** and **Friday, 29th November**. Our volunteers will be around in person on those two dates, and Tesco will have stock available for you to buy and donate also on 30th November. As always, a massive thank you to the Tesco Team and their customers.



**Gateshead  
Food  
Partnership**

## GATESHEAD FOOD PARTNERSHIP

Gateshead Foodbank is a member of the Gateshead Food Partnership. This is a collaboration of local people and public, voluntary and private sector organisations looking at a joined up, whole system approach to make delicious, nutritious, culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable food affordable and accessible for everyone in Gateshead.

Too many people in Gateshead are not able to afford or access good food. Too many people are suffering from poor health and preventable disease directly affected by the food they eat. The food we grow, produce and distribute is significantly contributing to climate change and lasting environmental damage. We know we can do better for Gateshead. Improving our food system can reduce inequalities, improve our health and mental wellbeing, protect and restore our environment and help Gateshead thrive.

Gateshead Food Partnership will be officially launched on Friday, 8th November at the inaugural Gateshead Food Summit at The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. Representatives from public, voluntary and private sector organisations, as well as any interested Gateshead citizens, are invited to attend the Summit to hear about opportunities and challenges relating to food in Gateshead, to network with others, be inspired by work already happening and to join in discussions and take action together. Attendees to the Summit will be invited to sign the Gateshead Food Charter asking individuals, businesses and organisations across Gateshead to help create and deliver a Good Food Action Plan for Gateshead.

Anyone can register to attend the Summit by visiting the Gateshead Food Partnership website and then clicking on the News and Events tab. Gateshead Foodbank will be represented at the Summit as one of the members of Gateshead Food Partnership by our Project Manager, Lesleyann Watson, and we'll be part of a panel to explore as a community how can we reduce the need for foodbanks and ultimately remove foodbanks from our community.