

Charity Number 1161395

**January 2026 Edition**

# BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Here at **Gateshead Foodbank**, we'd like to say a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who supported us throughout November and December.

From everyone who volunteered at our Team Valley warehouse and our Gateshead, Birtley and Blaydon distribution centres; from schools who created beautiful Christmas cards; to those who donated cash, food and gifts - the list is endless and far too long to name everyone individually. Every single contribution truly made a difference.

Your generosity helped ensure that every visitor to Gateshead Foodbank in December received a Christmas hamper, as well as a Tesco voucher, alongside their usual seven days' emergency food, toiletries, bread, and fresh fruit and vegetables. Most importantly, they left the Foodbank with hope.

We are incredibly grateful to **Tesco Trinity Square** and their amazing customers following our three day collection at the end of November. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our Gateshead community, we collected an incredible **2.4 tonnes of food and toiletries** and **£865.95 in cash donations**. We are truly thankful for every single contribution.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to **Northern Print Solutions**, **Whickham Parochial CofE Primary School** and **Rowlands Gill Primary School** for creating and donating such beautifully crafted Christmas cards. These were shared with individuals and families who visited the Foodbank during December, and we're certain they helped bring comfort, warmth and joy at a time when it was most needed.

**Thank you, Gateshead – you've shown once again what community really means.**



# Thank you!

We are pleased to share on the right a selection of Christmas cards created by local school children, alongside bottom right the card designed and printed for us by Northern Print Solutions.

Also included below is a photo from the Tesco Trinity Square collection held in November. We would like to thank everyone who donated and supported the collection.



## Thank you Knight Frank

In December, we found ourselves short on space at our Team Valley warehouse. Alongside our usual stock of nutritious food and toiletries, we were storing a large number of Christmas hampers prepared for distribution, as well as many boxes of breakfast cereal generously donated by local schools.

Thankfully, the local office of the real estate consultancy and estate agency Knight Frank stepped in and donated additional warehouse space just around the corner, which we were able to use to store the Christmas hampers. We are extremely grateful for Knight Frank's support.

**Find us at: <https://gateshead.foodbank.org.uk/>  
e: [info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk) t: 07496 840 720**

# Make 2026 the Year You Give Back

Have you ever thought about volunteering but kept putting it off? 2026 could be the perfect time to take that first step. At Gateshead Foodbank, we're a friendly, welcoming team – not a scary bunch at all!

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, creating a real sense of community and support. Whether you're hands-on in the **warehouse**, helping out at one of our **distribution centres** handing out emergency food parcels or taking part in one of our **supermarket collections**, there's a role to suit every skill and comfort level.

We run daytime sessions throughout the week, a Tuesday evening session, and occasional Saturday supermarket collections – so there's something to fit most schedules.

No experience is needed – just a willingness to help and a few spare hours. So go on... take the step. Make 2026 the year you give back to your community ♥

☎ Call: 07496 840720

✉ Email: [info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk)

🌐 <https://gateshead.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

**We'd love to welcome you to the Gateshead Foodbank Volunteering Team.**

## Gifts in Wills

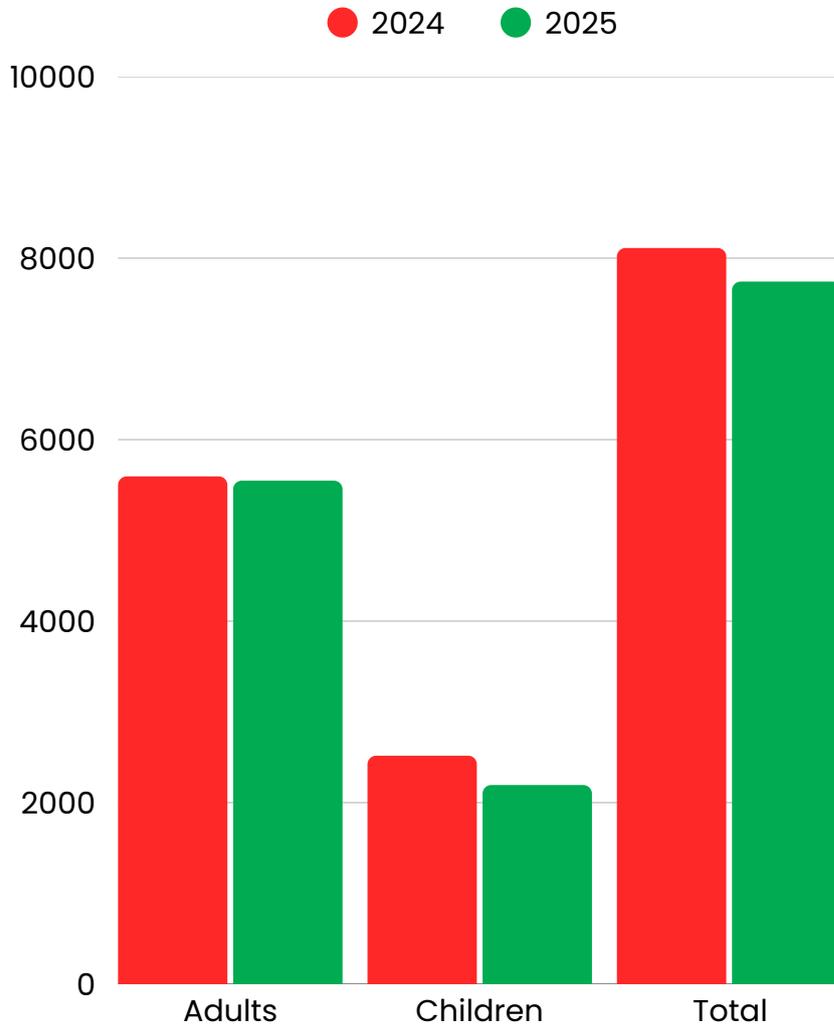
You may leave the place you grew up in, but its spirit stays with you. Leaving a gift in your will to Gateshead Foodbank can help ensure that no one in our community faces hunger or poverty alone – today or for generations to come.



If you'd like to help the people of Gateshead continue caring for one another into the future, please speak to your solicitor about leaving a legacy gift when you write or update your will.

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## End of Year Statistics



In 2025, we supported slightly fewer people in our community than in 2024. Over the past year, Gateshead Foodbank provided emergency food parcels to 7,742 local people, made up of 5,548 adults and 2,194 children. This represents a small reduction compared with 2024, when 8,112 people required our support (5,595 adults and 2,517 children).

Alongside providing emergency food, we work hard to help people move on from crisis by offering advice on debt reduction, benefit entitlements, utility bills and rent arrears. While the reduction in demand for emergency food is welcome, there remains a continuing and significant need for our services among individuals and families across Gateshead.

## Two Child Benefits Limit Scrapped, Thanks to You!

Thank you to everyone across Gateshead who took the time to email their MPs ahead of the Budget and make their voices heard on scrapping the two-child limit on benefits. That collective pressure worked: the Chancellor announced in the Budget that the limit will be removed from April. This change will put an additional £7.8 million a year directly into the pockets of Gateshead families, helping to ease household budgets and reduce child poverty. Crucially, that money won't sit idle - it will be spent in our local shops, cafés, services and businesses, supporting jobs, strengthening our high streets and generating a positive ripple effect across the local economy. This is a clear example of how community action can deliver real change and real investment for Gateshead.

# Reflecting on the Past Year, Looking Ahead to 2026

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past 12 months at Gateshead Foodbank and to thank everyone who has supported our work.

Over the last year, we have continued to respond to significant need across our community, providing emergency food and support to people facing difficulties with the cost of living. Alongside this, we have remained committed to our wider purpose, **not just supporting people in the moment, but working to reduce the need for food banks altogether.**



A key part of our work has been ensuring that people who come to us can access the right advice and support to help maximise their income, manage finances, and address the underlying issues that lead to food insecurity. By working closely with local partners and advice services, we aim to help people move forward with greater stability and confidence, rather than relying on emergency food long-term.

This work is only possible because of the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the ongoing support of our partners and community. Your compassion continues to make a real difference to lives across Gateshead.

As we move through 2026, we will also be taking time to review our strategy. We will reflect on what we have learned, and how we can continue to develop our services to best meet local need and navigate away from food banks, both now and in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has walked alongside Gateshead Foodbank over the past year. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

**Lesleyann Watson - Project Manager**

## Prayer Point

Gracious and loving God, thank you for every volunteer, donor and supporter whose hands and hearts bring hope to those in need. Bless our community of Gateshead with renewed strength and unity. May every act of kindness multiply, every gift of food nourish both body and spirit, and every encounter be filled with dignity and care. Grant wisdom to those who lead, courage to those who serve, and comfort to those who come seeking help.

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