



CLEVEDON DISTRICT FOODBANK

Restoring Dignity and Reviving Hope

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2015

"In 2015 Clevedon District Foodbank will be on a journey with its friends, supporters and partners to reduce food poverty in our local community"

Clevedon District Foodbank would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and peaceful new year.

It feels very uncomfortable to be celebrating the foodbank entering its third year. Our desire would be that our local community would not need the services of a foodbank. Unfortunately this is not the case and may not be for some time to come.

In saying this, I do want to celebrate the tremendous support that Clevedon District foodbank has received from the local community, volunteers,

churches, schools, distributors, local business.

In 2014 you have been extremely generous ensuring that we have been able to provide sufficient to meet the needs of the community. We have provided food parcels for **1395** people, prepared and delivered in excess of **200** Christmas hampers, handed out **60** plus picnic lunches during school holidays and provided top up lunch bags over the Christmas break.

In addition we have been reaching out to the local community and forging links with support agen-

cies and reaching parts of our community where we know there is need but there is a reluctance to ask for help.

As we move into 2015 we are really excited about the partnerships we have made, the projects we have planned and seeing food poverty in our local community being challenged. As in previous years it won't be easy but we are confident that with support we will be able to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and the surrounding towns and villages.

Food Donations

We continue to be part of the Trussell Trust national arrangement with Tesco. So you will see a permanent collection point in the Clevedon store. Tesco give foodbanks an additional financial contribution based on the weight of donations in the store collection boxes. If you are shopping in Tesco and wish to donate to the foodbank, you can add to the

value of your donation (a bit like gift-aid!) by putting your donation in the collection box in store rather than taking your donation to your church. Clevedon District Foodbank will then benefit from both the food and you donate and Tesco's corresponding donation.

Please do not use the Tesco collection point for donations which have not been purchased in store.

2014 has also seen Waitrose getting involved and supporting local foodbanks, by placing collection boxes in their stores up and down the country Clevedon District foodbank have been given a collection box in the store in Nailsea.

These regular donations along with harvest contributions have kept the shelves well stocked.

Feeding Local Children

Prevention is better than cure, so we are also looking to find longer-term ways of equipping clients (and potential clients) to avoid crisis.

Holidays can be a heart-sinking time for parents struggling to make the budget balance. We've tried to help with this, firstly by our Pick up a Picnic summer project, and then with our 'lunchbags' which we gave out over half-term and Christmas, and will repeat over subsequent holiday periods.

We are aware that cooking from scratch can be cheaper and nutritionally better than buying ready-made meals. We're working on ways to help our clients acquire improved cooking and shopping skills. We are also running a pilot project, with Waitrose, called 'on a plate', to bring some excellent teaching materials and some encouragement to schools in their new National Curriculum task of teaching scratch savoury cookery at Key Stages 1 and 2.

Other News

As you are aware a local family have very kindly provided us with the loan of a space which we have been using as a warehouse.

We mentioned in our previous newsletter that we were looking for a rental property. I can share some very good news with you. Whilst we are still looking for warehouse space we have a promise of support, which may allow us to rent a suitable property for

up to two years. We are very excited about this development and are looking forward to finding something soon. If you are aware of anywhere that may be suitable please email us at [in-fo@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk) or alternatively call on 07722 769529.

As we go into 2015 we are beginning to widen our focus and provide other forms of support.

The first of our Money Management courses will begin in Jan providing help and guidance on developing and living on a budget

We are also looking to strengthen our links with groups who find it difficult to approach the foodbank for help and support. In particular our senior citizen, mental health and young parents communities.

Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for us in particular for:

- Our trustees and Management Team as they seek to steer this project
- A permanent warehouse facility
- The funding to continue to manage the project
- Opportunities to reach out and engage with those people where we know there is a need
- Volunteers to help in the foodbank in particular those who are comfortable listening to clients

Distribution Point Information

Clevedon

37 Old Street, Clevedon

Opening Hours: Monday & Friday
1:30 – 3:30 pm

Contact No 07722 769529

Nailsea

Southfield Church 85 Southfield Rd

Opening Hours: Friday 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Contact No 07927 472649

Portishead

Gordano Valley Church, 4 Combe Rd

Opening Hours: Friday 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Contact No 07790 508069

Email info@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk