



Year 2 Annual Report

Bridgnorth Food Bank continues to play a vital role in the provision of emergency food parcels and medium term support for the residents of Bridgnorth and the surrounding area.

In our second year of operation we have continued to develop our activities, establishing new ways of supporting people in need and building on the relationships with the various agencies that refer clients to us.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of individuals, churches, statutory service providers, local businesses and other organisations for the assistance provided in helping us achieve our objectives.

By its very nature this report can only provide a brief overview of our activities during the period February 2014 to February 2015. However if further information would be helpful, please contact us and a member of the Organising Team will be happy to assist.

Facts & Figures

- ◆ **Direct assistance** provided to an additional **70 families and individuals** bringing the total to **156** over 2 years
- ◆ **81 adults** and **38 children** supported in the last year
- ◆ **86 emergency food parcels** distributed either directly or via our partnering agencies
- ◆ **240 visits made** to the Distribution Centre
- ◆ Average **length of support** given: **3.4 weeks**
- ◆ Over **25 volunteers** involved
- ◆ Total **monetary donations** received amounted to **£7,850**
- ◆ **18,925** food and non-food items distributed - average **364** per week
- ◆ **19,336** items received - average **372** per week
- ◆ **Referrals** made by **17** different agency partners
- ◆ **96%** of clients assisted live within a radius of **13 miles** of Bridgnorth
- ◆ **63%** of all clients supported **reside in Bridgnorth**



We supply a range of basic but nutritional foods and other essential items

Bridgnorth Food Bank

Number Seven West Castle Street Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 4AB
01746 768129 bridgnorthfoodbank@gmail.com
www.bridgnorthfoodbank.co.uk

Numbers at a Glance

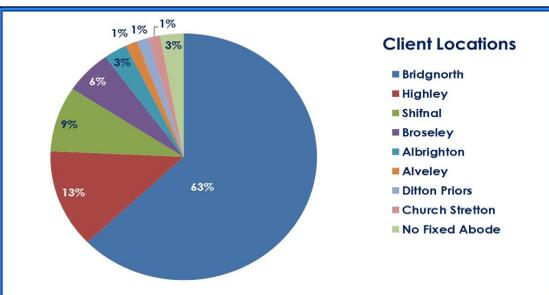
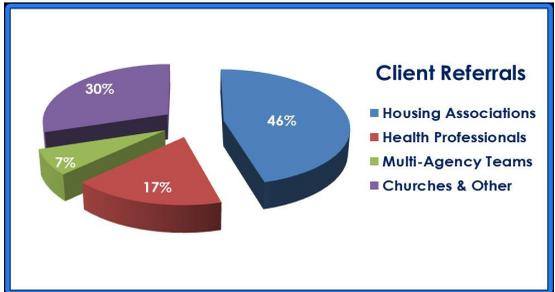


Our strategy is to provide short term support for those people requiring assistance.

Although a few clients require additional support whilst social benefits are assessed, in over 90% of cases our service is provided for less than 10 weeks.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the agencies that refer clients to us - without them we could not offer this service to local people.

Housing Associations play a major role but we have seen an increasing number of clients referred to us by Health Professionals during our second year of operations.



Our primary "target area" is the local area around Bridgnorth but we have found that some clients from neighbouring areas also require support.

This is often as a result of their concern of being "recognised" if they go to their local Food Bank for assistance.

Please note the analysis above excludes the 86 "emergency" food parcels distributed by agencies on our behalf for which we do not have specific client information.

A typical food parcel includes:

- ◆ Tinned soup; beans; vegetables; fish and ready made meals
- ◆ Pasta; rice and spaghetti and cook-in sauces
- ◆ Cereals; long-life milk; sugar; tea and coffee
- ◆ Fruit juices/squash; biscuits; jams; tinned fruit and puddings

We also include:

- ◆ Toiletry items such as toothpaste; soaps; shampoo
- ◆ Baby items as required - food; wipes and nappies
- ◆ Washing up liquid and washing powder
- ◆ Some cooking utensils as often clients do not have access to these
- ◆ "Luxury" items when we have them

Fundraising & Publicity

We are indebted to the many individuals (too many to mention) and organisations that support Bridgnorth Food Bank with financial donations and food items and/or give their valuable time as volunteers. Local businesses - including Apley Farm Shop which provides us with bread and fresh vegetables when in season - and Bridgnorth supermarkets have also contributed and we want to especially thank those businesses that supported us with donations for our 'sister' event - **"Together at Christmas"**.



Oldbury Wells School student **Ruth Lee** completed the 7-mile Junior Bridgnorth Walk in just 90 minutes

The Bridgnorth Endowed & Oldbury Wells 6th Form students adopted Bridgnorth Food Bank as their Charity of the Year and the following local schools have also donated items. Thanks to you all.

Supporting Schools

- Bridgnorth Endowed & Oldbury Wells 6th Form
- Castlefields Primary
- Christ Church, Cressage
- Church Preen Primary
- Claverley Primary
- Farlow CoE Primary
- Little Acorns Montessori Nursery
- Morville Primary
- St. John's RC Primary
- St. Leonard's Primary
- Stottesden CoE Primary

Businesses

- Apley Farm Shop
- Barclays Bank plc
- Co-operative Food
- Lloyds Bank plc
- Innage Grange
- Murrays Healthcare
- Sainsbury's
- The Curiosity Shop
- White Lion
- Wheatlands Care Home

Community Groups

- Bridgnorth Rotary Club
- Brockton & District Women's Institute
- Dave Turnock Society
- Eardington Village Hall
- Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice

Thanks are also due to all those intrepid volunteers who took part in the annual Bridgnorth Walk raising over £1,000 for us.

Local Christian Churches - the initiators of the Food Bank - also continue to provide food donations (often on a weekly basis but especially through Harvest Festivals).

Churches

- All Saints, Claverley
- Bridgnorth Baptist
- Cartway Church
- Holy Trinity, Sidbury
- Much Wenlock Methodist
- People' Hall
- St. Andrew's, Quatt
- St. John's RC
- St. Mary's, Alveley
- St. Mary's Billingsley
- St. Mary's, Bridgnorth
- St. Mary's, Highley
- St. Mary's, Quafford
- St. Peter's, Easthope
- St. Peter's, Worfield

If we have omitted anyone please accept our apologies

Our thanks are also due to the dedicated members of our **PR and Fundraising Teams** and especially to the **Monday Operational Team volunteers** who ensure we are able to provide the service to the clients.



Have you found us on Facebook?

Every week we post details of the items we urgently need on our Facebook page.

We're also on Twitter

- please feel free to retweet our posts.



The Year Ahead

For the first 2 years of operation Bridgnorth Food Bank has been a part of **Torchbearers Trust** - registered charity number 1000113. From April 2015 we will become a part of **Bridgnorth Community Trust** - a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - registered number 1154617.

Bridgnorth Community Trust (BCT) was set up in 2014 by two local church leaders, a company director and the senior partner of a firm of solicitors in order to support local activities that:

- Assist in the relief of poverty, sickness and distress;
- Promote education and learning;
- Advance the Christian faith.

BCT already oversees "**Together at Christmas**" - an annual Christmas Day luncheon - and works alongside the **Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project** which incorporates **The Bridge Youth Centre**.

There will be no operational changes as a result of the move to BCT. As a voluntary organisation, sponsored and supported by the Christian Churches in the area, Bridgnorth Food Bank will continue to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families in need by providing a range of food and non-food items as appropriate.

However we do not offer a "drop-in facility". Clients must be referred to us by one of our partnering agencies. These include:

- Statutory organisations, Council Services and Multi-Agency Teams;
- Housing Associations;
- Medical & Healthcare professionals;
- Churches.

We will continue to offer this service from our distribution centre at **Number Seven, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth WV16 4AB** and will be **open every Monday** (including Bank Holidays) from **10:30 to 12:30**.

Future plans include:

- Review the possibility of establishing "village depots" making it easier for those in rural communities to access our services;
- The provision of money management and other relevant courses;
- A new "out of hours" contact facility.

If you are a UK tax payer, as a part of Bridgnorth Community Trust we are able to reclaim Gift Aid at no extra cost to you - for every £1 you give we can claim an additional 25p.

Please download a **Gift Aid Declaration** from the website or contact us for more details.

Gift Aid Donations

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