



PRESS RELEASE

FOODBANKS NATIONWIDE FEED PEOPLE STRUGGLING IN EXTREME WEATHER

Extreme weather conditions are causing problems for people living on the edge of poverty nationwide. The cost of additional heating as well as increases in illness means many people already struggling to get by are being tipped over the edge by the cold snap. Charity foodbanks across the UK saw numbers of clients double in December and are fighting to continue to deliver emergency food to people experiencing crisis.

Lorna Dempster, Manager of Highland Foodbank says: 'We have been very busy this week due to the weather. One family with five children came to us because their boiler had burst, collapsing the ceiling and soaking all their possessions. They have had to be re-housed and are struggling to cope. This family and others like them were so grateful for the food, they have nothing else.'

UK charity The Trussell Trust's network of 56 foodbanks works with frontline care professionals such as doctors and social workers to provide people in crisis with three days of non-perishable emergency food.

This week Salisbury foodbank helped a young couple with a baby who had no food in the cupboard. The father was off work with flu but was not receiving sick pay and their benefits had been stopped altogether whilst the benefits office re-assessed their needs. With ice on the inside of the upstairs windows, the family was sleeping downstairs in their one heated room. The family had resorted to borrowing a can of soup from their neighbour to feed themselves. The father, told us: 'I really don't know what we would have done if The Trussell Trust hadn't helped us today, we are so grateful.'

Foodbank Network Manager Jeremy Ravn says: 'Cold weather forces people already struggling to cope to make decisions between turning on the heating or buying food. Heating is so expensive, especially when you are on a meter. With more people facing tough times due to recession, this cold snap is exacerbating the problem. Increased client numbers are straining our resources, we need more food donations to keep going but we are doing our best to keep foodbank centres open and delivering food to people in need.'

Ends

Notes to the editor:

- Many people in crisis who have been issued with vouchers for the foodbank have not been able to get to foodbank centres to pick up their food, so foodbanks with access to 4x4s have been delivering food to clients at their homes.
- Many foodbanks are starting to run short of certain food items and need more donations of to meet the increased need.
- The foodbank network is run by The Trussell Trust charity, which helps churches to launch foodbanks in their local communities. There are currently 56 foodbanks launched across the UK, and new ones are opening fast. Foodbanks are operating from Cornwall to Inverness. Recession has seen a huge increase in the number of foodbanks opening nationally and in the number of people fed due to recession related problems.
- Foodbanks work with frontline care professionals to identify people in crisis and give them three days worth of food and support. Last year UK foodbanks fed 26,000 people in crisis. This year figures look set to rise to 35,000.
- All food given out by foodbanks is donated by members of the public: schools, churches, businesses and individuals.
- The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity working to bring hope and practical help to people in crisis in the UK and Bulgaria.

Molly Hodson: Press Office

01722 411244

molly.hodson@trusselltrust.org

THE TRUSSELL TRUST

St Michael's Community Centre, St Michael's Road, Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP2 9LE

www.trusselltrust.org

Reg. Charity No 1110522

Reg. Limited Company No 5434524

(Registered in England & Wales)

