



28/10/2015

Trussell Trust statement on Department for Work & Pension's comments about placing advisors in foodbanks

We welcome the Government's interest in exploring new ways that the DWP might help people at foodbanks who have hit crisis as a result of problems with welfare delivery, but we would also suggest that there first needs to be a dialogue between the DWP and The Trussell Trust network about the possible challenges and opportunities that hosting DWP advisors in foodbanks could afford. We need to look at the most helpful ways for local Jobcentres and foodbanks to work together.

The Trussell Trust has had positive discussions with some MPs about whether piloting DWP advisors in their local foodbanks could be beneficial, but we have not yet had the opportunity for dialogue with Iain Duncan Smith or DWP advisors about the feasibility of rolling out this idea. The Trussell Trust runs a network of over 400 foodbanks in the UK, so it would be extremely helpful if we, and foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network, could meet with the DWP as soon as possible to discuss their plans for this scheme. Whilst we are not aware of any pilots taking place in Trussell Trust foodbanks, we are very keen to see the results of any pilots currently being undertaken by the DWP in other food banks, and we would like to contribute to future discussions on the potential effectiveness of the proposed scheme.

The Trussell Trust is always open to ideas that could help people facing hunger in the UK. We are keen to explore a full range of options, for example locating independent welfare advisors at foodbanks.

We are also currently consulting foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network to gather their views about hosting DWP advisors in foodbanks.

We look forward to speaking to Ministers and officials soon to discuss how to overcome the problems with benefits delivery highlighted by the Work and Pensions Committee investigation, finding practical solutions to help people out of poverty.

Ends.