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PRESS RELEASE

NEW UK FOODBANK LAUNCHED EVERY FOUR DAYS IN 2011



In 2011 The Trussell Trust charity launched a new UK foodbank every four days. Foodbanks provide emergency food to people in crisis and the economic situation has seen the need soar in the past year. In 2011-12 over 100,000 people nationwide will receive emergency food help from a foodbank, 60% more than the previous year.

Foodbank recipients are not usually the homeless; they are low-income working families who hit crisis, people who have been made redundant or people experiencing benefits delays. Foodbanks are opening at an unprecedented rate to meet the high demand for emergency food aid: there are now over 190 foodbanks nationwide, 88 of which were launched in 2011 alone.

Executive Chairman of The Trussell Trust, Chris Mould, says: 'Between 2008 - 2011 numbers fed by foodbanks increased by 136%. Recession followed by high unemployment and rising food and fuel prices has had a huge impact. Foodbank clients are faced with impossible choices between paying the rent and buying food. Parents skip meals or consider crime to feed their children. The shocking truth is that thousands are going hungry in their own homes in 21st century Britain.'

He adds: 'The good news is that more local churches and communities are becoming aware of the hunger on their doorsteps and are partnering with us to start foodbanks to stop people going without food.'

Foodbanks provide a minimum of three days non-perishable food to people in crisis. Coventry Foodbank opened in January 2011 and has already fed over 5,000 people. Project Manager Gavin Kibble says: 'We hugely underestimated the number of people in need of emergency food and have been shocked at the demand since opening. We now have nine distribution centres across the city to help us meet the unprecedented need.'

57% of children in poverty in the UK live in working households [[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)]. Many of those helped by foodbanks are in work or struggling after losing their job or business. For Adrian and Kay, a couple both made redundant at the same time, 'the foodbank was a lifesaver.' They received emergency food for two weeks, helping them to feed their four-year-old daughter until redundancy pay came through.

Trussell Trust foodbanks are run by the community for the community. Most foodbanks are run by local churches in partnership with the local community. All food given out is donated by local people and every person in receipt of a food parcel is referred by a frontline care professional such as a doctor or social worker. The Trussell Trust estimates that numbers fed by foodbanks could swell to 500,000 by 2015. Ends.

Notes to the editor:

- In 2009-10 foodbanks fed almost 41,000 people, in 2010-11 numbers rose to 61,468 people (including over 20,000 children), in 2011-12 figures will jump to over 100,000.
- The Trussell Trust aims to launch at least 200 UK foodbanks by 2013, feeding an estimated 144,000 people.
- In 2010-11 foodbanks feeding over 3,000 people included Salisbury foodbank, Highland foodbank and Andover foodbank.
- Clients are referred to foodbanks for a variety of reasons including redundancy, benefit delay, low income, ill health, domestic abuse, benefit reductions and debt. Food is donated by schools, churches, businesses and individuals in the local area and is sorted by volunteers.
- Foodboxes contain three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable foods such as tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish as well as pasta, cereal, UHT milk, sauces, tea, long-life juice.
- Foodbank clients can receive a maximum of three foodbank vouchers in a row (each voucher can be redeemed for at least three days food). Clients can receive up to nine vouchers per year, although longer term support is available in exceptional circumstances.
- Currently over 190 foodbanks have been launched nationwide and this number is growing rapidly. Our vision is that every town should have a foodbank, creating a nation where no-one needs to go hungry.
- The foodbank network run by The Trussell Trust helps churches and communities to launch foodbanks. Foodbanks are operating from Cornwall to Inverness, with 30 projects launched in London so far.
- We will provide case studies where possible.
- The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity that partners with local communities to provide practical, non-judgemental help to people in crisis in the UK and Bulgaria: www.trusselltrust.org

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