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The Trussell Trust and Community Shop Announce Latest Collaboration

The Trussell Trust, the national foodbank operator, is joining forces with Community Shop, the UK's first social supermarket, in a new collaboration to tackle food poverty and food waste. The partnership, which will be piloted in two locations over the next year, is aimed at reducing poverty for around 1,500 families per year.

The Trussell Trust is known for running a network of foodbanks across the UK which provide three days of emergency food and support to people when a crisis hits, such as an unexpected bill, bereavement or illness, and they can't afford to eat. However, alongside its foodbanks The Trussell Trust has developed several More Than Food projects which aim to tackle the underlying causes of a person's crisis and help prevent people getting to the stage where they need emergency food and support.

Community Shop social supermarkets are currently open in two locations in London and South Yorkshire, with a pipeline of stores in development. Community Shop was pioneered by Company Shop to get wholesome surplus food to the people that need it most. Members of the store get access to good food at great prices, but they also enrol on The Success Plan, where they work with mentors to identify and address challenges. Independent evaluation has showed that Community Shop has helped 73% of members feel better off financially and 92% improve their confidence since joining.

Community Shop and Trussell Trust foodbanks already have a strong relationship where they serve the same area. Norwood & Brixton Foodbank already signposts people using the foodbank to the Community Shop in West Norwood, depending on the individual need, and the organisations believe there is significant potential in sharing a space.

The pilot will be trialled in two locations and both The Trussell Trust and Community Shop believe that by working together there is the potential to be able to help more people before they reach crisis point. The two organisations are now actively looking for locations of approximately 20,000 square feet of space, where projects can be developed.

Speaking about the collaboration Chief Executive of The Trussell Trust, David McAuley, said:

"We are excited to enter into this agreement with Community Shop and I'm looking forward to exploring how the two organisations can work together. Most importantly we have a shared vision and passion for ending UK hunger and poverty through supporting communities take practical action. Our approaches to tackling poverty can complement each other, so fewer people end up needing an emergency food parcel to see them through the week."

Founder and Chairman of Community Shop, John Marren, added:

"We have long admired the way that the Trussell Trust has inspired a nation to take action to tackle food poverty. When we launched Community Shop our mission was to get surplus food to the people that needed it most, whilst building stronger individuals and stronger communities. We believe that through this partnership we will be able to reach even more people and help them back on their route to independence, while tackling food waste."

Supporting the announcement of the collaboration, CEO of FareShare, Lindsay Boswell said:

“What people in difficulties really need is a seamless and supportive approach and this is why the partnership between Community Shop and The Trussell Trust is so welcome. Collaboration always delivers greater social impact than competition and the shared ambition to “go beyond food” and address the deep-rooted causes behind hunger makes this an ideal partnership.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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The Trussell Trust:

- Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy or bereavement to welfare problems or receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. The Trussell Trust’s network of over 420 foodbanks provides three days’ emergency food and support to people in crisis across the UK.
- In 2015-16, Trussell Trust foodbanks provided 1,109,309 three day emergency food supplies to people in crisis. Of those helped, 415,866 were children.
- Everyone who comes to a Trussell Trust foodbank is referred by a frontline professional like Citizens Advice, housing associations and children’s centres.
- Trussell Trust foodbanks do much more than food: they provide a listening ear and help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis either through signposting onto relevant local charities or providing on-site immediate support, such as debt and money advice.
- Find out more at www.trusselltrust.org

Company Shop:

- Company Shop is the UK’s largest redistributor of surplus food, working across the supply chain to stop good food going to waste.
- In December 2013 Company Shop also founded Community Shop, the UK’s first social supermarket, that gets good food to the people that need it most, building stronger individuals and stronger communities.
- To read more please visit www.companyshop.co.uk or call 0800 024 6691