# Selby & District

# Word from Mark Barnett (Foodbank Project Manager)

Happy New Year! I cannot believe we are in 2018. We've had a very busy year at the Selby & District Foodbank, although our official year finishes at the endof March 2018. We have a whole range of people that come to the Foodbank, not just people on Benefits. Some Clients may be struggling to pay their mortgage or loans and then not have enough



money to buy food. Some may be in employment but on a very low wages. Those on Benefits will be changing to Universal Credit in May 18 which in the long term appears to be a better system for managing benefits. However rollout in some areas has caused additional hardship which we will need to help with by providing extra emergency food parcels. Thank you for your continuing support to the Foodbank.

#### **Our Aim**

To provide short-term food parcels for people in short term food poverty. To end hunger in our community.

### Foodbank by numbers

Figures based on April to December 2017

767 vouchers redeemed (families and individuals)1687 people fed (788 between Apr-Dec 2016)571 of which were children (235 between Apr-Dec 2016)

In December 2017, we had our busiest month ever – 106 Vouchers redeemed comprising 172 adults and 99 children. We are especially concerned with the number of children needing food.

# Food stock update

December was an amazing month for generosity by the local community including individual and business donations and supermarket collection points. We received a total of 5330kg of food in and gave out 2615 kg. This means we have supplies to give out in the coming month as well as continuing donations of food. We received some wonderful donations during the festive season. The residents in Riccall donated 290kg with the Reverse Advent Boxes – over 21 boxes of food and toiletries! They are doing a similar collection for Valentine's!



The Brayton Scouts and Beavers have made several visits to the Foodbank to see how it works whilst bringing along lots of carrier bags full of long-life food donations.

Local schools contributed over 1 ton of food during the September/October Harvest time. Both Nigel and Mark gave several assemblies in schools. We get great support from local businesses.

Our supermarkets are our main suppliers with their customers putting donations in the permanent collection boxes. B & M, Westmill and O2 now have permanent boxes as well as those that are already I the area. The Rubicon School provides Ready Meals in term time that we are able to freeze and distribute. We also get great support from the local Council, Churches and various groups and organisations.

#### **Local Extras**

Thanks go to the Bell & Crown in Snaith for raising £200 at their Open Microphone Night.

Scarves and hats were knitted by listeners of Radio York and we received a good bag full. They soon went!

The "Selby Big Local" sponsored a leaflet and poster drive to raise awareness as well as donating pens and bags that we can give out at any event we attend.

The Selby Times has helped to promote what the Foodbank does and why we have to do it.

#### **Special moments**

We've had lots of special moments since our last Newsletter. Mystery donations of food and money; gifts of toys to pass on to youngsters; two bicycles that were really gratefully received and enabled one Client to get to work; hugs for volunteers from grateful Clients; total relief from some of our Clients, especially during and after the Christmas period knowing that we would continue to support them during their time of crisis.

#### We need

Although we are grateful for any long-life products, (we don't do fresh produce as it does not store well), we always seem to need coffee, tinned custard, instant mash, cold meats e.g. corned beef, toilet rolls and toiletries.

#### Our core agency partners

CAB, DIAL, IDAS, Access Selby, Horton Housing, Horizons, Job Centre Plus, Foundation Housing, Children's Centres, some Schools, The Probation Service, Victim Support, GP Practices and various "Social Services" Offices. Note, Agencies are where a client goes to be assessed for food needs and receive a foodbank voucher

#### Thanks

Those that volunteer at the Selby & District Foodbank get to see the huge impact a simple parcel of emergency food can have on the life of families, young people and the homeless. Thank you to all those that Volunteer at the Foodbank. For the first time, we have a waiting list of volunteers. We feel very privileged to be able to help in this small way and want to pass on our sincere thanks to the churches, support organisations, ongoing donation partners, agencies and other numerous people in our community who have donated something in some way to support our clients in food poverty. Thank you for your time, giving and support. We cannot help those in need without you.

# **Get in Contact**

Mark Barnett (Foodbank Manager): mark@selby.foodbank.org.uk 07413 374750 Nigel Currey (Trustee): nigel@selby.foodbank.org.uk Helen Middleton (Agency Liaison): helen@selby.foodbank.org.uk Foodbank Address: 30 New Lane, Selby, YO8 4QB





Donate to Foodbank at www.mydonate.bt.com then enter our registered charity # 1169033 in the 'Donate to charity' search box, click search and follow the links.



Volunteers, 30 New Lane, Selby. Spot the new boy, two from the right.



