



Restoring dignity, reviving hope

Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2017



Local Foodbanks braced for Universal Credit roll-out

Foodbanks across East Cornwall are preparing for the imminent roll-out of Universal Credit in December, the government's flagship change to the benefit system.

Local Foodbanks are bracing themselves because in areas of the U.K. where Universal Credit has already been introduced, Foodbanks have recorded an average 30% increase in referrals for individuals, couples and families falling in to crisis where they regularly cannot afford to put food on the table – where parents are going without in order to feed their children - where they have to choose between 'heating or eating' as winter approaches. Some foodbanks have seen more than a 60% increase!

Continued on back page

Harvest donations reach an amazing 1.25 tonnes!

Thank you to all the primary schools, churches and chapels from across South-East Cornwall who brought Harvest donations of non-perishable food to the Foodbank warehouse in Liskeard.

From there it will be re-distributed to those referred by frontline Agencies, whether that be in Liskeard, Looe, Torpoint or surrounding villages and hamlets. 1.25 tonnes roughly equates to one month's food at present demand i.e. approximately 140 local people.

Foodbank Opening Hours:

Liskeard: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 09.30-12.30.

Torpoint: Monday/Wednesday 10.30-12.30 at St James Church Hall, Salamanca Street. PL11 2BD.

Outside these hours we can be contacted on: 07512 011452 (09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday).

Liskeard & Looe Foodbank, Unit One Barras Place, Liskeard, Cornwall. PL14 6AY.

UK Charity No: 1146545

Tel: 07512 011452 or 01579 343742. Email@ liskeard.foodbank@gmail.com Web: liskeardlooe.foodbank.org.uk

Universal Credit continued

Much concern has been expressed over the minimum 6 week delay from the initial application (1st week wait, 4 weeks to process, 1 week to authorise payment) to receiving universal credit which leaves most applicants immediately in arrears by at least 2 weeks.

Liskeard and Looe Foodbank report a 10% rise in referrals already this year (1,400 to end October including 500 children), and are bracing themselves for further increases. Although they have good stocks in the warehouse, this would only last 3½ months at current demand. With many Foodbanks reporting more than 50% rise in demand due to U.C. a further 8-10 tonnes of food could well be required.

We are so grateful to all those who donate food, finance and time to the Foodbank to ensure that people in this area do not go without.

Christmas Boxes

Many people have been enquiring about donating food in the run-up to Christmas. As usual we will be packing extra boxes to go alongside our standard emergency food boxes to provide families and individuals with something special this Christmas.

We are looking for the following items please:

Quality tins of Meat, Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies, Biscuit Assortments, Variety Pack Chocolates, Christmas Cake/Yule Log, Crackers, Custard etc.

These will be packed with vegetables, soup, fruit and any additional items donated.

Homeless

With the number of homeless people in South East Cornwall at an unacceptably high level, the Foodbank continues to stock tents, sleeping bags, stoves and warm clothes to give those in need the wherewithal to survive whilst agencies seek to provide a longer term solution. Many are short-term homeless due to relationship break-down and other crises. However, there also individuals with mental health issues, those struggling with addictions and those escaping abuse.

We particularly need: thermal socks, hats and gloves.

Thankyou!

Shortages

To keep up to date with our shortages please check our website:

<https://liskeardlooe.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food>

Support you local Foodbank

Liskeard & Looe Foodbank is a local independent charity funded entirely by the community. If you would like to support us by making a regular or one-off donation please visit our website:

liskeardlooe.foodbank.org.uk where you can donate online or set up a standing order.

Alternatively email, give us a call or pop in to see us at the Foodbank in Liskeard.

Cheques can be made payable to: 'Liskeard & Looe Foodbank'