



**Annual Review and Accounts
For the year ending 31 March 2025**

Registered charity number 1158413

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees' Report for the period ended 31 March 2025

“It’s not just about food”

1. Objects

The charity’s object is to relieve persons in Faversham and surrounding areas who are in conditions of need, hardship, or distress in such ways as the trustees from time to time think fit.

2. Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of the Faversham Foodbank confirm they have complied with a duty under section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commissioner’s guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the society in the period to 31 March 2025.

3. Board of Trustees

The trustees are the charities members. The board recruits and appoints future trustees according to the charity’s Constitution.

Members of the board of trustees during the year are listed below:

D Deeson, Chair (appointed 1.10.24)

T R Bishop, Treasurer and Trustee (reappointed 22.01.25 for three years)

L Coniam, Trustee (reappointed 11.02.24 for three years)

V Harwood (appointed 23.01.25)

S Lamberton, Trustee (reappointed 11.02.24 for three years)

B Munn, Trustee (reappointed 1.04.24 for three years)

I Neel, Trustee (resigned 27.10.24)

H Perkin, Trustee (reappointed 11.02.24 for three years)

The board of trustees would like to express their thanks to Iris Neel for her long service to Faversham Foodbank as a trustee. She continues to be a Foodbank volunteer delivery driver.

Since the end of the period covered by these reports and accounts, two further trustees have been appointed - Tim Philpott and Allison Bowers - from 23 April 2025, for a period of three years.

4. Advisors

Bank: Lloyds Bank plc
High Street
Whitstable
CT5 1BH

Insurers: Zurich Insurance

Accountants: Stephen Hill Mid Kent Limited
31-33 Albion Place

Sittingbourne Road
Maidstone
ME14 5DZ

5. Related Organisation

Faversham Foodbank is part of the Trussell network and subscribes to the aims and mission of that charity. We receive guidance, training, and advice from Trussell. They produce an operating manual and maintain an online data collection system, which benefits both ourselves and Trussell.

6. Activities and Performance

A vision of Churches Together in Faversham, the Foodbank was formed in February 2014, and opened its doors to the public on 9 April 2014.

Funds are raised through local churches, individual gifts, regular giving, fundraising activities, and grants.

In setting its objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Demand

The demand for Faversham Foodbank has decreased over the past year, in line with the national picture, but this does follow successive years of 30 per cent increases year-on-year.

	Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total	Meals
1 st Apr 2023 – 31 st March 2024	1,117	2,105	1,376	3,481	31,329
1 st Apr 2024 – 31 st March 2025	924	1,561	1,028	2,589	23,301

The table shows a decrease of 17 per cent on Foodbank vouchers fulfilled and 26 per cent on total meals supplied compared with the same period in the previous financial year.

Donations

Thanks to the generosity of people in Faversham and the surrounding areas, the Foodbank receives sufficient donations of food, toiletries, household cleaning products, and other items to minimise the amount of food we have to buy. However, as the cost-of-living steadily went up, people have cut back on what they have been able to provide. The table below shows how stocks have decreased over the period covered by this annual report.

Total Stock (date)	Weight
31 st March 2025	7,112.88kg

31 st March 2024	10,490.95kg
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Staff

Magdalen Deakins is the Foodbank's Project Manager and Josh Rowlands is the Assistant Project Manager. The trustees thank them both for their hard work supporting vulnerable people in Faversham and the surrounding communities.

Volunteers

Without our volunteers, there would not be a Foodbank. Many of our dedicated and hardworking team have provided support to our clients for numerous years but we also do regularly recruit new volunteers. Currently, we have 55 local individuals who provide a range of support including talking with and supporting clients, collecting and sorting donations from Nisa Local, Sainsbury's, and Tesco's, and picking and packing food parcels. The trustees thank them all for their brilliant support.

Extensive training is available to volunteers. All are required to undertake safeguarding training.

Financial Inclusion Worker

In 2024, Dawn Kelly joined the Foodbank to provide dedicated one-to-one support to clients who need help with the challenges and difficulties they face.

Funded by a two-year grant from Trussell and trained and employed on behalf of the Foodbank by Porchlight, Dawn has proved a popular addition with both clients and our volunteers who are keen to see the Foodbank provide an initiative to help break the cycle of food and other poverty.

Early evidence is that her appointment is having a clear effect on reducing the number of visits clients make to the Foodbank.

Gospel Mission

Since the Foodbank was founded in 2014, it has operated from the Gospel Mission in Tanners Street. The trustees are extremely grateful to the Mission for continuing to provide the Foodbank with a base from which to operate. During the period covered by this report, the Mission building underwent extensive renovation and the Foodbank agreed with the Mission's trustees that a formal rental agreement would be entered into to help the Mission finance the improvements.

Vision Strategy

The Foodbank is currently developing a strategy to best understand its future direction and what other services we should be developing for our clients.

We are consulting with all our stakeholders including volunteers, clients, donors, and the agencies which refer people to the Foodbank.

Extending the Foodbank to Rural Areas

As well as the town of Faversham, the Foodbank's service area extends:

- North to the Swale, including Oare and Luddenham

- East towards Canterbury, including Boughton-under-Blean, Hernhill, Dunkirk, and Dargate
- South towards Ashford including Charing, Challock, Eastling, Throwley and Stalisfield
- West towards Sittingbourne including Teynham, Newnham, Doddington, Conyer, and Lynsted

To increase our reach into rural areas we are planning shortly to start a trial of taking the Foodbank to village halls and community centres to reach people who currently either receive deliveries, or who have difficulty accessing the Foodbank in Faversham because of poor public transport.

Referral Agencies

There are 55 agencies which can issue Faversham Foodbank vouchers through the Trussell Data Collection System. Fourteen of these have been active over the period covered by this report. The Foodbank is undertaking a consultation exercise with agencies to enhance the referral process.

Communication

The main method of regular communication with donors and clients is via social media platforms, which include Facebook, Next Door, X (Twitter), Threads, Instagram, and Bluesky.

A survey of donors says that they want more communication from the Foodbank to know how we are helping vulnerable people in the local community and we shall be issuing regular updates.

Fuel Bank Vouchers

The Foodbank donated £3000 to the Fuel Bank Foundation in 2022 to allow us to issue Fuel Bank vouchers to local people who are in fuel poverty and we continue to provide this service.

	Vouchers issued	Adults	Children	Total helped	Total value of vouchers
1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2024	138	288	199	487	£6,250.00
1 st April 2024 – 31 st March 2025	131	236	135	371	£6,166.00

Smart Phones and SIM Cards

If people do not have access to a 'smart' phone it is more difficult to access a variety of services. For example, applying for Universal Credit, managing the applicant's account, and receiving information is significantly easier on a smart device.

During the past year, the Foodbank provided 18 mobile phones and 31 sim cards to our clients.

Support for the Homeless and Rough Sleepers

The Foodbank provides camping stoves and gas with canisters, as well as tents, sleeping bags and hot water bottles. These are purchased and donated by supporters.

Other Support

We continue to work with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, to provide clients with appliances such as cookers and fridge freezers.

7. Financial Performance

In addition to the ongoing financial support provided by Tesco, the Trustees are once again indebted to the generosity of individuals, churches, and community groups that supported the Foodbank during the year by making one-off and/or ongoing donations.

At the beginning of the year, we held restricted funds of £27,000 to fund the provision of the Financial Inclusion Worker. We contribute 60% of the cost to Porchlight, paying quarterly in arrears and made the first payment in March 2025, meaning at the year end we held restricted funds of £19,320.

The main expenditure items from unrestricted funds during the year were staff salaries, hall hire of the Gospel Mission, and van rental. As a result, our unrestricted cash and bank balances at the end of the year totalled £106,665, down from £125,371 - a deficit of £18,706 for the year.

Although our finances have been robust enough to absorb the deficit and our funds remain healthy, going forward an annual operational deficit of this magnitude will not be sustainable. Accordingly, the Trustees are currently in the process of establishing a proactive fundraising strategy.

8. Financial Management, Risk Analysis, and Reserves Policy

The Foodbank's financial management is in the hands of the Trustees, who review the financial position regularly when the Treasurer reports details of cash receipts and payments at quarterly Trustee Meetings.

Whilst it was agreed during the year that the Reserve should remain at £40,000, both this figure and the Policy generally will continue to be reviewed regularly.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Dominic Deeson
Chair of Trustees

Date: