



UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01am 24th APRIL 2018

9809 emergency food supplies given to local people in last year, Norwood and Brixton Foodbank reveals

Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, 9809 three day emergency food supplies were provided to local people in crisis by the Norwood and Brixton Foodbank, compared to 8004 in the previous year. Of this number, 3993 went to children.

The Foodbank, a member of The Trussell Trust's network which has today reported a UK-wide increase Foodbank use, believes the local increase is due to people struggling with a low income and those who don't have access to public funds.

As part of a national network campaigning for change, the Foodbank is working hard to offer practical emergency support to help prevent people affected going hungry, whilst simultaneously participating in vital research and raising awareness about the issues local people are facing.

Elizabeth Maytom, Project lead of The Norwood and Brixton Foodbank said:

"We don't want to be here forever. No one in Lambeth should need a Foodbank's help and we want to see an end to local people needing emergency food at all. It doesn't have to be this way - with a benefits system that catches people before they fall into crisis, and secure work that provides people with enough money to cover the cost of essentials, this is possible. But until that time, we'll continue to provide vital support when it matters most - we're dedicated to ensuring that people in our community with no money for food are able to access emergency support, and that has only been possible in the last year because of the incredible generosity shown by local people in donating food, time and funds. Thank you."

The number of Foodbank clients on low income has seen a sharp rise in the last year. Sandra, a Foodbank client living in Brixton said:

"Foodbank helped to fill a gap. I'm working but it isn't enough to cover my bills and provide food. I pay my bills first then worry about food after – that's just me. I work for 25hrs each week and without Foodbank It would have been even harder to survive, especially without any family to support."

Despite generous donations of food, there are many hidden costs involved in running the foodbank. Costs include advice workers, salaries, insurance, printers, shelving and trolleys.

The Foodbank welcomes any new offers of help with funding – local businesses, organisations and individuals interested in supporting the foodbank's work can find out more at

<https://norwoodbrixton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

For volunteering opportunities please sign up for our May supermarket collection as advertised on our website and Facebook page. Thanks

ENDS

Contact: Jon Taylor (Norwood and Brixton Foodbank Media Manager) can be reached on media@norwoodbrixton.foodbank.org.uk or 07805433514

Facebook: [@norwoodbrixtonfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/norwoodbrixtonfoodbank)

Twitter: [@BrixtonFoodbank](https://twitter.com/BrixtonFoodbank) [@foodbankNorwood](https://twitter.com/foodbankNorwood)

Notes to Editor

Norwood and Brixton Foodbank:

- We have seen a 22% increase from 2017/2018
- Norwood and Brixton Foodbank has been providing three days emergency food and support to local people since 2011.
- 75 tonnes of food were donated by the local community between April 2017 – March 2018
- For more info, visit <https://norwoodbrixton.foodbank.org.uk/>
- The Norwood and Brixton Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust network. For UK-wide Trussell Trust foodbank statistics visit <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/> .