

14th April 2022



Immediate Release

Southend Foodbank release their 2022 first quarter statistics:

Southend Foodbank have today released the figures for guests attending their distribution centres through the first quarter of 2022. The Foodbank received 1,034 referrals from January to March and fed 2,783 people - of whom 1,219 were children.

Media and Campaigns Coordinator Cass Francis said "We collate the reasons referrals are made to us from data collected by our partners in the community - these figures show that 84% of the people referred to us are experiencing poverty that goes beyond a 'one-off emergency'. What we are seeing now are people suffering for extensive amounts of time because of low income and debt - often debt owed to the government in the form of UC advance re-payments.

"We've seen an increase of 44% in referrals this quarter compared to the same time period last year. This is a stark increase and tallies with the increase in the cost of living, the increase in energy bills, and the removal of the £20 weekly UC uplift at the end of last year.

"Southend Foodbank are committed to welcoming and supporting anyone that finds themselves in hardship this year, and we will be working towards a future where foodbanks are no longer necessary."

Notes

- Southend Foodbank opened in November 2013. Since then, it has grown to cover Southend and Rochford with 8 distribution points across Southend, Shoeburyness, Southchurch, Westcliff, Leigh, Eastwood and Hawkwell and Hockley.
- Every year the foodbank has been open, it has been busier than the year before. In 2021, Southend Foodbank had almost 3000 referrals, and gave out food to more than 8500 people including nearly 4000 children.
- Referrals are made to the foodbank from a range of agencies, including Citizens Advice, schools, GPs and social workers, housing associations, police, and community organisations.
- As part of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks, Southend Foodbank works on a referral model to make sure that people in need are connected with at least one source of support as well as getting emergency food. The foodbank also offers signposting to further help for people in crisis.
- Anyone that would like a referral to the foodbank can call Citizens Advice Southend on 01702 456352 or 456354 to go through a referral process over the phone.

Ends.