



## **Southend Foodbank referrals up 56% on 2021**

Southend Foodbank have today released their half year statistics, highlighting the number of people needing a food parcel in the area through the first half of 2022. The figures look stark, with 56.4% more referrals being made to the foodbank in January to June this year than in the same period of 2021.

In total, 5,581 food parcels have been handed out so far in 2022. To put that into perspective, the foodbank are seeing as many people on average each month this year as they usually see during our busiest Christmas months, there has been no let-up in people needing foodbank assistance.

On average this year Southend Foodbank have given out 1,845kg of food each week at their 8 distribution centres. They have noticed a drop in the amount of food being donated, meaning there is a shortfall requiring an average of 230kg of purchases each week. The foodbank attribute this to the other side of the cost-of-living squeeze, supporters are being just as generous and compassionate as they ever were, but that the money they have available to spend on donations doesn't stretch as far as it used to.

As part of the Trussell Trust network Southend Foodbank support evidence-based approaches to wards tackling food poverty and call on levels of government and industry to urgently to face up to the realities of the hardships being experienced in the community.