

# Ringwood Foodbank

The foodbank is supported by a local fish and chip shop which provides vouchers for foodbank clients.

The foodbank works closely with other community organisations including social prescribers and GP surgeries, the Fuel Bank Foundation (who can provide credit for pre-payment fuel meters), and Citizens Advice. Ringwood also has a community fridge and FareShare larder and the latter is supported by foodbank volunteers.

The pandemic impacted the foodbank and its clients considerably.

The organisation quickly shifted to a delivery-only model, to keep volunteers and clients safe. Donations from the community increased during the pandemic, with the economic impact on families well documented in the media. Demand from users also increased, and continues to grow. The organisation paused its coffee morning offering, where users were able to have a complementary tea and biscuit and receive support from CAB or another service, during the pandemic though hopes to restart these soon.

The Ringwood Foodbank is an independent charity affiliated with the Trussell Trust. It has been running for nearly nine years, and operates three branches and a main warehouse for supplies. It supports approximately 65 households per week, and is supported by 120 volunteers.

Clients are referred to the foodbank from local schools and GPs, Citizens Advice Bureau, social workers and so on. Clients receive food packages which will provide three meals per day for three days – each food package is bespoke to the user's needs. They can use the food bank for as long as required, and also receive support with budgeting and signposting to other organisations who can help. The food bank can also supply toiletries, baby care items and pet food.





Now, the foodbank has a hybrid model – some users come in person to collect their package, allowing the organisation to build relationships with them. Those unable to collect, such as people with mobility issues, can access a delivery service. Donations have reduced somewhat, but the foodbank is still well supported locally. The organisation receives some financial support from the local authority and from Trussell Trust. They also receive food donations from Lidl and via collection boxes in Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Lidl, Morrisons and the Co-op. They receive weekly deliveries of fresh food from FareShare.

In the 21-22 financial year, Ringwood Foodbank supported 3,268 people. However, demand is increasing – January-March was busier in 2022 than it's ever been, thanks to the cost of living/



energy prices crisis in the UK.

Most clients find themselves in need of the foodbank because of benefit delays, benefits changing and ill health and low income.

The foodbank is also now supporting new arrivals to Ringwood – Ukrainian refugees. Working with Love Ukraine Ringwood, a local community group providing support to those being welcomed to the area, the foodbank puts together welcome packages of food and toiletries. SIM cards provided by Vodafone, who have a partnership with the Trussell Trust, are also made available to those who need them.

Find about more about Ringwood Foodbank:  
<https://ringwood.foodbank.org.uk/>



This case study was written by Pam Mercer at Action Hampshire on behalf of Hampshire CVS Network

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