



## Overview

With records broken, new staff and countless Easter eggs handed out it's been a busy few months on site.

We provided a record 2988 emergency parcels in the first four months of 2023 compared to 1952 in 2022; 797 in March alone. Some days we've provided as many as 50 emergency parcels; referrals are currently up c.53% on last year.

Over the past few weeks we've provided an average of 38 parcels per day. This is the equivalent of supporting 74 people per day through parcels. A figure eclipsed by the number of people helped through other things (breakfast clubs etc).

In May we provided our 50,000th emergency parcel. Whilst this is not something that we would wish to celebrate we instead took the day to recognise the incredible support offered by every volunteer, staff member and supporter, without whom we would not have been able to help so many people.



This increase in demand has understandably put a strain on our stocks. Back in April we had one of our lowest levels of stock for many years. Following an increase in our bulk purchasing (from wholesalers) and a successful plea to locals and businesses we're now back to a healthier level of stock. However, with our current trajectory the next year will be extremely challenging. We continue to spend around £5,000 on fresh stock and £8,000 on long life stock each month.

We continue to support Lee, a local Nutritionalist, who teaches local people to cook healthy food on a budget. We're also continuing to support a range of breakfast and lunch clubs at local schools, *Little One Stop* in North Shields and two *Warm Welcome* locations who continue to tackle social isolation.

## Staffing, Volunteers & Trustees

Following a lengthy recruitment process we're pleased to welcome Joe Scrase into the position of Development Manager at The Bay Foodbank. Having originally joined the foodbank as a volunteer he'll now manage much of the day to day alongside Jackie. He'll initially be working part time, with primary focus on digital, finance, marketing, HR and governance.

We're also pleased to announce that following successful interviews last week we'll soon be joined by a new member of staff in the position of Deputy Foodbank Manager. They'll be working across the warehouse to manage the parcels and stock control.

Jan-Apr 2023 we provided 2988 emergency parcels (up 53% from last year)





**Tracey Pickard will be retiring at the end of June. Tracey has worked in the warehouse for many years and is often to be found working the pass. Tracey joined the foodbank as a volunteer before taking on a part time role. Her hard work during the pandemic was invaluable. She will be missed by those she worked with on Tuesdays and Fridays. We remain hopeful that she will return as a volunteer.**

## **You said, we did**

**As part of the Volunteer & Staff survey back in February we received lots of really useful feedback. Much of which we've been able to action. Thank you again to those who contributed.**

**One of the themes from the feedback was on having enough space to work in the warehouse. Following a rejig of the pass area we now have another work bench as well as more space to work and to store parcels. We're continuing to evaluate longer term solutions for storage and work space.**

**Another key theme was on communication and wanting to know more about what's going on, as well as some figures on client/ parcel numbers. This is something that we're working to improve through such things as this quarterly newsletter and the new digital dashboard displayed via a new screen in the warehouse.**

**As we continue to work through the feedback received we'll continue to improve. As such, you may notice other changes.**





## Changes on site

As well as the rejig of the pass area in the warehouse and the installation of a new digital display we've also been hard at work redesigning the offices. What was The Baby Room is now an office/meeting room. Baby food and nappies have been moved into the main office.

## Patron

Lots of work has been taking place behind the scenes with our new Patron Steph McGovern to plan plenty of exciting things over the next year. Steph has also kindly put us in touch with L'Oreal who have provided us with a pallet of toiletry gift sets, perfect as gifts in our Christmas parcels!

## Press coverage

The Bay Foodbank recently teamed up with For the Love of the North who have agreed to provide a days' worth of food for each item of clothing sold. This partnership was recently covered by ITV Tyne Tees who visited us to hear about the rise in demand. A copy of the report can be viewed here - <https://shorturl.at/djuHW>

Our ongoing support of Little One Stop in North Shields was picked up by The Chronicle. A copy can be found here - <https://shorturl.at/aknJK>



## Support

As ever we continue to see incredible support from individuals and organisations, far too many mention. Just this month we've received support from Insure The Box, Ubisoft, For the Love of the North, Proctor & Gamble and Leeds Building Society (amongst many others). Honourable mentions go out to the 6th Tynemouth Scouts and Food for Folk. 6th Tynemouth Scouts recently sold some surplus camping equipment and kindly passed the funds raised to us. Food for Folk, organised by the local poet Harry Gallagher, meet monthly in the Monkseaton Arms to share music and words. The entrance fee is a donation to the foodbank. A great night out with much needed support for the foodbank generated.

## Comments/Suggestions

Should you have any suggestions of content for future editions of this newsletter or indeed comments/suggestions on how we can continue to develop the foodbank please email – [joe@thebayfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:joe@thebayfoodbank.org.uk) / [maggie@thebayfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:maggie@thebayfoodbank.org.uk)

