



The Latest Update of the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

The journey continues as more and more people are using the foodbank and we have opened a fourth distribution centre.....here are the facts, latest news and the future plans.

What's happened!

In the 18 months we have been opened we have fed 2879 people, 1645 adults and 1234 children, issued 1165 vouchers (426 via Epsom CAB (our biggest distributor)). However in the last 12 months we have fed 2237 people and in the last 6 months we have fed 1220, which clearly demonstrates an increase in demand and means we are now feeding over 200 people a month.

The fourth distribution centre was opened at Tadworth with support from Raven Housing Association and Merland Rise Church. This originally opened for the Christmas period but due to demand has remained open. This centre is open on Tuesdays from 10 – 12. It means that the foodbank has centres open on Tuesdays at Merland Rise, Wednesday at Ewell, Fridays in Epsom and Saturdays in Leatherhead. We have permanent collection points at Sainsburys in Epsom, Tesco's in Leatherhead and Budgens in Stoneleigh. The One Stop shops at Tadworth and Leatherhead currently have temporary collections points. Permanent collection points are fantastic as it means we get regular, consistent donations which support our work.

To date we have collected over 42 tonnes of food, are working with 80 local agencies, talked with 1,000's of people about the work and raised enough money to survive.

So why are people coming to us?

Our top 4 issues stated on the vouchers as a need for food are:

- Benefit delays – 28.4%
- Low income – 25.9%
- Benefit changes – 11.2%
- Debt – 10%

However the 4 issues based on numbers (eg families) of people fed are:

- Low Income – 27.7% (797 people)
- Benefit delays – 24.9% (716)
- Benefit Changes – 11.8% (340)
- Debt – 10.9% (312)

Where do they come from?

The wards which have had the greatest demand have continued to be Court ward (194 vouchers), Leatherhead North (135), Ruxley (125), Town (102) Tattenham (58) Stamford (56) Ewell (55) West Ewell (54) and Preston (36).

Nationally there are now over 410 foodbanks in the country and the coverage has been constant from debates in Parliament, a Panorama programme, media articles in most local papers to the Rich, Famous and Hungry series for Sports Relief, if you missed it find it on iplayer, it's worth watching.

Locally a new foodbank has opened in Cobham and there are plans to open another in Dorking. Across Surrey there are now 9 Trussell Trust foodbanks.

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We now have 4 distribution centres

Tuesdays 10 – 12 at Merland Rise, 73 Marbles Way
Wednesdays 2 – 4 at Ewell, Ruxley Church
Fridays 2 – 4 at Epsom, Epsom Methodists
Saturday 10 – 11.30 at Leatherhead, North Leatherhead Community Centre.

Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to amaze us with their dedication and commitment. We could not do it without you all.

If you want to become a volunteer then please get in touch. We have new roles, from transporting food and collecting food, fundraising, statistics, alongside working in the distribution centres, so if you are interested do email us at foodbank@generation.org.uk.

Training Sessions

Our next training session is Thursday 22nd May, 6.30pm at the Generation Resource Centre. Please email us on foodbank@generation.org.uk to book your place. You cannot just turn up as there won't be space. Please remember that you need to do the training before you work in the distribution centre.

We are running a second training programme on Monday 12th May, 7pm at the Generation Resource Centre. This is for offering support beyond the foodbank to try and support people to get out of food poverty. It is a short term programme where we will talk through how we can offer some very basic support and signposting. It could be just a cup of tea to provide some initial confidence, goal setting, form filling, basic budgeting etc. If interested or you want further information then please email to book a space.

Shopping List – our needs.....

Each week the 'we need' list is tweeted out so sign up for the latest info or check the website.

At present we need cereals, tinned vegetables and potatoes, washing powder (tablets), ladies shampoo and shower gel, conditioner, baby shampoo and baby bath, ketchup, nappies but not sizes 3 or 4, toilet paper, tinned puddings, feminine products and treats.

We do not need any more pasta, soup, tea or baked beans.

Finance

We have no regular income so any donations are welcome. A simple way for us to raise money is via standing orders, you can download a form from the website – <http://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk>.

The Future

Finally we have grown and do need a bigger premises. Secondly we are exploring the potential of including furniture, which is a constant request, within the overall project?

To set this up we would need to achieve a significant jump in income. Would you or your business be interested in supporting our next stage of development? If so then please do get in touch to find out how that could benefit both parties.

Thanks for all your support over the last 18 months, let's keep blessing our town.

Jonathan & the team