



## **2,268 HELPED BY EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK IN LAST**

### **YEAR: LIFE HAS GOT WORSE NOT BETTER FOR POOREST IN 2013/14**

- **2,268** people received three days' emergency food from Epsom & Ewell foodbank in 2013-14, compared to 642 in our first 6 months of 2012-13
- **Over 900,000** people received three days' emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks nationwide in 2013-14, compared to 346,992 in 2012-13.
- Foodbank figures are 'tip of the iceberg' of UK food poverty says Trussell Trust Chairman
- Foodbank figures trigger biggest ever faith leader intervention on UK food poverty in modern times.

**Over 2,268 adults and children have received three days' emergency food and support from Epsom & Ewell foodbank in the last 12 months, an 80% equivalent increase on numbers helped in the previous financial year. Despite signs of economic recovery, the poorest have seen incomes squeezed even more than last year reports The Trussell Trust, the UK's largest foodbank network. More people are being referred to Trussell Trust foodbanks than ever before.**

Static incomes, rising living costs, low pay, underemployment and problems with welfare, especially sanctioning, are significant drivers of the increased demand. 83 percent of foodbanks surveyed by The Trussell Trust recently reported that benefits sanctions, which have become increasingly harsh, have caused more people to be referred to them for emergency food in the last year [see Notes]. Over 50 percent of referrals to foodbanks in 2013-14 were a result of benefit delays or changes.

Jonathan Lees, Epsom & Ewell foodbank director says: 'When we set up the Epsom & Ewell foodbank in 2012 we had no idea how much need there was in the area. We are increasingly shocked at how busy we have become – the need is far greater than we ever imagined. This really shouldn't be happening in the seventh richest country in the world. But the reality is that life is very difficult for people on low incomes at the moment, and

increasing numbers are struggling to make ends meet and are hitting a crisis where they cannot afford food. We don't think anyone should have to go hungry, which is why we're so grateful for the incredible generosity of local people in donating food, funds and time to stop local hunger.'

Last year local people donated over 25 tonnes of food to Epsom & Ewell foodbank, and more than 100 people volunteered. Local schools, businesses and faith groups have provided vital support to the foodbank, enabling us to give three days' nutritionally balanced food and support to people in crisis.

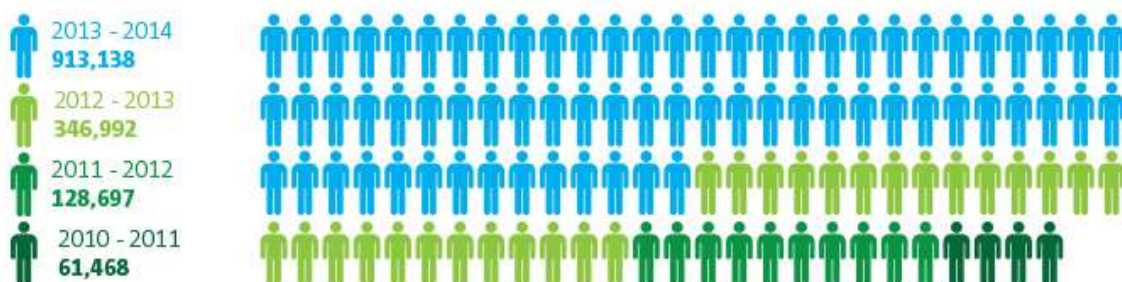
Of the 2,268 people given three days' emergency food, 979 were children.

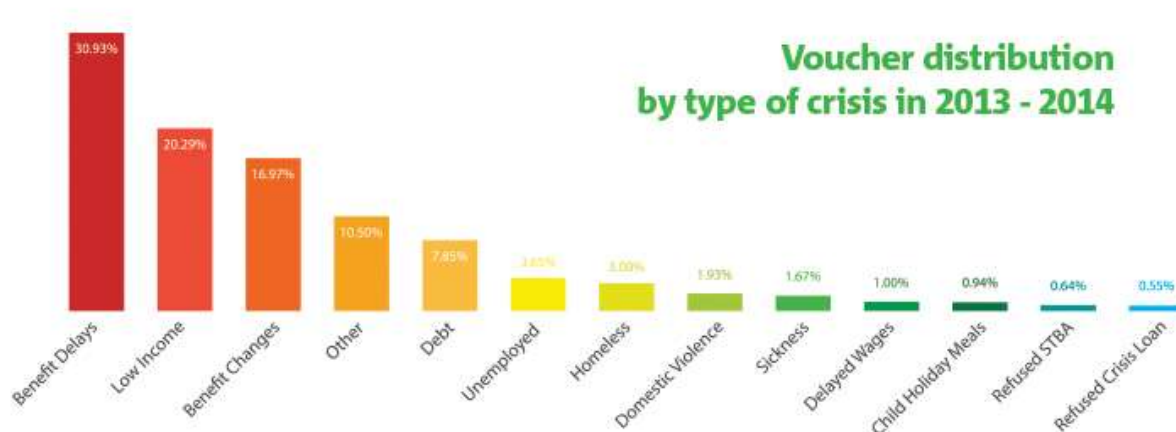
The Trussell Trust's Chairman, Chris Mould, says:

*'It is shocking that we're seeing rising numbers of people need to turn to foodbanks in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain. But perhaps most worrying of all is that Trussell Trust foodbank figures are just the tip of the iceberg of UK food poverty, it doesn't include those helped by other emergency food providers, those living in towns where there is no foodbank, people who are too ashamed to seek help or the large number of people who are only just coping by eating less and buying cheap food. [See Notes below]*

*That's why urgent action needs to be taken to stop UK hunger.'*

### Numbers given 3 days' emergency food by Trussell Trust foodbanks





Graph displays nationwide breakdown of primary reason for referral to foodbank

As well as providing emergency food, Epsom & Ewell foodbank provides essentials like washing powder, nappies and hygiene products to families who are at breaking point, as well as signposting them to other advisory services in the local area. Many Trussell Trust foodbanks, including Epsom & Ewell foodbank, are partnering with other agencies to provide additional services such as welfare advice, budgeting help and debt support at the foodbank itself, helping people to break out of crisis.

#### **New letter marks biggest ever faith intervention on food poverty in modern times:**

**This week** a letter co-signed by 36 Anglican Bishops and over 600 church leaders from all major denominations will call for urgent Government action to be taken on UK food poverty. The letter, initiated by End Hunger Fast, will be delivered to the constituency offices of each of the three main party leaders by three church leaders who have been fasting for 40 days in solidarity with people facing hunger in the UK. This will mark the biggest ever faith leader intervention on UK food poverty in modern times. There was also a public vigil led by [End Hunger Fast](#) opposite Parliament at Old Palace Yard. At the vigil [Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner](#), Senior Rabbi at Movement for Reform Judaism, for the first time publicly express the cross-communal support of the Jewish community for action against UK food poverty.

Trussell Trust Chairman Chris Mould says: *'We are encouraged that there is a growing public concern over the problem of UK hunger. Faith leaders, academics, charities and MPs are all standing up to say that hunger is not acceptable in Britain, and that is what gives us hope for change.'* **Ends**

## **Notes to the editor:**

### **SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE**

A new survey by parenting website Netmums and Trussell Trust conducted in March 2014 and released this week reveals that more working families are struggling to make ends meet

- A survey of 2,178 working families conducted by Netmums in March 2014 shows that one in five working parents have had to choose between paying an essential bill or putting food on the table in the last 12 months.
- A huge 78 per cent of parents in working families have cut spending over the last 12 months. 56 percent admit to having to buy cheaper, lower quality food.
- Forty three per cent of those surveyed admitted that they are only 'just about coping' with balancing their family budgets and a quarter stated they have suffered stress as a result of not eating properly.
- Only 1 in 40 had turned to a foodbank for help, with more than 70 percent saying that they would only do so as a last resort. This reinforces evidence from the government's recent DEFRA report which states that turning to a foodbank is very difficult for many. It also reinforces the fact that foodbank figures only reflect part of the problem of UK food poverty.

### **ABOUT TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANKS AND STATISTICS**

- Epsom & Ewell foodbank provides three days' nutritionally balanced food and support to people in crisis in the UK. We also signpost people to other agencies and services able to help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis.
- Epsom & Ewell foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network of over 400 foodbanks across the UK.
- Everyone who comes to a Trussell Trust foodbank is referred by a professional such as a social worker, health visitor or schools liaison officer. Over 80 agencies work with us at the Epsom & Ewell foodbank.
- Over 90 percent of food given out by Trussell Trust foodbanks is donated by the public.
- Trussell Trust foodbank statistics are collected using an online data collection system into which foodbanks enter the data from each foodbank voucher. The system records the number of adults and children given three days' emergency food. Trussell Trust figures have always been reported in this way. We cannot measure unique users on a national scale, but recent evidence collected from a sample of foodbanks indicates that over 65 percent of

foodbank users were only helped once over a six month period, and that only 7.5 percent needed four or more vouchers.

- In the Surrey region in 2013/14 4,004 adults and 2,783 children received three days' food = 6,787 total. Epsom & Ewell foodbank provided a third of this amount.
- Across the UK, in 2013/14 582,933 adults and 330,205 children received 3 days' food = 913,138 total.
- While there has been a 163 percent increase in foodbank use nationwide, there has only been a 45 percent increase in the number of new Trussell Trust foodbanks opening in the last year. Across the UK the rate of new foodbanks opening has reduced from three a week in 2012/13 to two a week in 2013/14.
- Nationwide, foodbanks that have been open for three years or more have seen an average increase of 51% in numbers helped in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13, showing that well established foodbanks are experiencing significant uplift in demand.
- The Trussell Trust's figures further reinforce evidence from the recent government-commissioned DEFRA report that increased foodbank use is not a question of supply, but of meeting a real and growing need.
- Evidence of foodbanks showing an increase in sanctioning was obtained from a survey carried out by The Trussell Trust in March 2014. 130 Trussell Trust foodbanks responded to the survey, providing a representative sample of foodbanks across the UK, including both rural and urban foodbanks.
- The release of latest Trussell Trust figures comes the day after the first call for evidence for an All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into hunger and food poverty led by Frank Field, Bishop Tim Thornton and Laura Sandys MP. Chris Mould says: *We support the recently launched All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into hunger and food poverty and hope that it will provide a more in-depth understanding of food poverty in the UK so that action can be taken to stop it.*
- Trussell Trust foodbanks provide three days' nutritionally balanced food and support to people in crisis in the UK. We also signpost people to other agencies and services able to help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis.

- Everyone who comes to a Trussell Trust foodbank is referred by a professional such as a social worker, health visitor or schools liaison officer. Over 27,000 professionals referred people to Trussell Trust foodbanks in 2013-14, and 50 percent were statutory agencies.
- Over 90 percent of food given out by Trussell Trust foodbanks is donated by the public.
- The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity that runs the biggest network of foodbanks in the UK. For more on The Trussell Trust visit [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

SPOKESPEOPLE, FOODBANK VISITS AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, CLIENT CASE STUDIES ON REQUEST.

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