



Whitchurch foodbank

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25 August 2023

Dear All,

My apologies for not writing to you individually but as I would be saying the same thing, this seemed more expedient.

Trussell Trust (TT) – Financial Inclusion Grant (FI)

For the past 18mths a number of Trussell Trust foodbanks have embarked upon Financial Inclusion projects in their area. In essence this grant is available to Foodbanks to establish a direct relationship with a 'provider' – in the main – Citizen's Advice Bureau to make available an advisor for direct referrals following a visit to the Foodbank.

Where the size of their premises allows, Foodbanks have established such face-to-face advice within their Foodbank. Where space has prevented this then the advisor is located in another suitable 'central' building.

The amount of grant available to establish such an arrangement varies according to the level of clients using the Foodbank and how many are likely to make use of such 'signposting'

With Billions £ of benefits going unclaimed each year a large element of the advice given relates to what an individual is entitled to claim, although the advice CAB can offer is far wider than purely being benefit related.

Feedback to Trussell from those Foodbanks operating FI is that many Foodbank clients have seen positive results in their finances from such face-to-face meetings and in many cases this has reduced / eliminated their need for additional Foodbank referrals.

My reason for giving you this information is because Whitchurch Foodbank are in discussion with Trussell's Regional Financial Inclusion Manager about us providing such a service.

I do however need to stress that this support from Trussell Trust, in establishing a CAB advisor locally, **is solely** for those who have been referred to the Foodbank for a food parcel and not a 'general' CAB support to the community as a whole.

In Whitchurch there is currently an opportunity for 'the community' to seek advice from a CAB representative on a Wednesday morning at the Civic Centre. I am unaware of any such provision being available in Wem.



In view of the limited floor space available at our Foodbank, our proposal is for a Foodbank supported CAB advisor to be located at the Watergate Centre (The Beacon Church) for face-to-face meetings.

My reason to writing to each of you (the four Wem Churches and the Town Clerk) is twofold – firstly to advise you of our proposal but secondly to see whether you were able to offer a suitable room which could be hired where the CAB advisor could be located. This would be for pre-arranged face-to-face meetings with Foodbank clients who live in Wem and adjacent surrounding areas. Maybe 2/3hrs per week – on a regular day – subject to review / demand. Without such a provision it would be necessary for Wem based Foodbank clients to travel to Whitchurch for their appointment. This would of course be a disincentive.

The room would need to be large enough for 2/3 persons, with table and chairs, be well lit, heated (in season) with access to toilet facilities. Access to water and a kettle would be an added bonus. It would also be essential, for safeguarding reasons, that there be at least one other person on the premises during the whole of the 2/3hr period.

If you think that you may have such a room that could be offered for upto 3hrs a week would you please let me know –

- a) Approximate size of the room
- b) That a table and 3 chairs would be provided
- c) That at least one other individual would be present on the premises during the hire.
- d) That toilet facilities are readily available
- e) That a toilet for the disabled was available.
- f) Access to the premises and movement within it, is suitable for abled and disabled people
- g) What day/s and time slots could be offered
- h) The cost of hire – per occasion.

As you will understand, we at this stage have no idea of the likely take-up for such a service although we did recently undertake a small survey with our clients and 85% said they would take up the offer of a face-to-face consultation were it available.

With all the work needed to make our grant submission, and establishing a working agreement with CAB it is unlikely this service will be ready to start before Dec/Jan.

It is possible of course that each of you may offer the provision we seek. The premises to be used will need to be inspected by a representative of the Foodbank and the CAB prior to a formal agreement being put in place.

The Trustees of the foodbank believe the opportunity to offer this additional service will be of great benefit to our clients and in turn see a reduction in the number of persons needing help from the foodbank.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Alan Scutt
Chairman and Manager of Whitchurch Foodbank