



SHERBORNE FOOD BANK

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027

3rd July 2024

Context

- We know that poverty is the root cause of hunger.
- We also know that hunger is harmful to health.
- We know that no one is ever just hungry.
- We know that ending hunger has wide appeal.

Hence our motto: ***A Helping Hand to the Hungry***

Structure

Our Food Bank is a charitable organisation based in Sherborne, Dorset; founded in 2010 by a local and developed in co-operation with churches and community groups, working together towards eliminating hunger in Sherborne and the surrounding areas. We seek to relieve hunger through the provision of emergency food parcels while also considering the reasons behind the crises faced by those using our services, by working with other agencies, charities and groups to achieve lasting solutions. We became a formal charity in 2014 with Charity Commission registration 1156481.

Our Vision:

- We envisage a community where everyone has access to nutritious food.
- We look forward to a hunger-free Sherborne and surrounding areas.

Our Mission:

- To relieve hunger and poverty in our community by enabling people in crisis to feed themselves and their families.

Our Values

These will consistently be to:

- Serve with compassion;
- Collaborate with others to end hunger;
- Foster dignity;
- Encourage community;
- Act justly and accountably, without favour or prejudice.
- Act in accordance with Christian principles.

How we work

Our Food Bank is committed to feeding hungry people in our community. Our clients are treated with respect and dignity, and we welcome all clients without judgement.

- **Board.** Our Trustee Board provides direction and guidance. This includes yearly planning to enhance the client and volunteer experience, whilst recognising changes within the national and local environment.
- **Donations.** Donations from our financial supporters allow us to purchase food to supplement food donations that we receive. Our donors allow us to provide food to hungry people.
- **Volunteers.** Our Food Bank relies on our 80+ volunteers to help collect and receive food, inspect for expiry dates, sort, and distribute to our clients.
- **Service.** Our Food Bank is about communication, fundraising and receiving donations, sorting, and distribution. We collect, sort, and distribute to our clients and outreach food programmes.
- **Work through external agencies** such as schools to provide extra school meals and other food for their clients who are in need.

Strategic Goals

Our Food Bank's strategic goals are to:

- Enable local people to manage their immediate food poverty through the direct provision of food and funding for food poverty projects;
- Create sustainable delivery capability to meet the needs of households with a diversity of age and need;
- Raise awareness of the demand for food poverty solutions amongst local people and those in positions of influence;
- Expand and strengthen the Food Bank's relationships with referral agencies capable of identifying need to meet our mission;
- Respond to feedback from clients and agencies to shape our service delivery based on lived experience of poverty.
- Work with and resource external partners such as schools and youth organisations to help them meet the food needs of their clients

In so doing, work towards eradicating the need for a food bank within our area of influence.

Activity plan informing outputs and outcomes

- Install and expand improved communication facilities primarily with referral agencies such as Citizens Advice, GP Practices, schools and churches, for greater understanding of need and more effective delivery and broader reach to our clients.
- Increase the number and depth of relationships with the providers of “ambient” food (eg supermarket partners) to achieve greater volume and priority food relevant to emergency hunger alleviation.
- Increase the number and value of financial donations from businesses, institutions, trusts and the general public to provide us with the means to meet our mission and alleviate hunger.
- Achieve greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and improved working environment at our Sherborne Depot for our volunteers.
- Increase and expand our presence in the community – in person and online, to attract both donors and volunteers including capturing stories of achievement and engagement with local civic and parliamentary bodies.
- Manage and monitor relationships with partners.
- Achieve greater accountability, credibility and efficiency through regularly upgraded policies and procedures as recommended by our Trustees and Executive Board.
- Maintain and improve the environment for our volunteers in terms of training, volunteering conditions at the Depot and safeguarding, to enable the safe and rewarding delivery of our services.