



Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
for the year ended
31 March 2023
Charity No: 1152574

Trustees' Annual Report

for the period

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) ("Accounting and Reporting by Charities") in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Reference and Administration Details

Name of Charity:	Ringwood Foodbank
Registered Charity number:	1152574
Registered Address:	Ringwood Foodbank, Unit 10a, Forest Corner Farm, Hangersley, Ringwood, BH24 3JW
Principal Operating Address:	Ringwood Foodbank, Unit 10a, Forest Corner Farm, Hangersley, Ringwood, BH24 3JW

The Charity's Trustees	Office held	Term of Office
Mrs Jacqueline Brown	Honorary Secretary Data Protection Officer	06.09.21 – 06.09.24
Mr Kevin Jones	Lead Trustee on Homelessness	30.09.22 – 30.09.25
Mr Chris Lee	Chairman	01.09.2020 – 31.08.2023 From 25 September 2018
Mrs Patricia McAleer	Safeguarding Officer	01.09.2020 – 31.08.2023
Mrs Claire Skelley	Volunteer Co-ordinator	06.09.21 – 06.09.24
Mrs Anita Steel	Lead Trustee on Health and Safety. Vice-chair	06.09.21 – 06.09.24
Mr Jonathan Gibson	Treasurer	06.09.21 – 06.09.24
Mr John Mullin		Co-opted 6 th September 2021 – 8 th July 2022

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, 6 – 8 High Street, Ringwood,
BH24 1BZ
Nationwide Building Society

In addition to the Trustees named above, the operation of the Foodbank is dependent on other principal post-holders:

Mrs Christine Owen	Warehouse Manager
Mrs Louise Shrubsole	Ringwood Distribution Centre Manager
Mr David Evans	Verwood Distribution Centre Manager
Mr David Williams	Fordingbridge Distribution Centre Manager

The Foodbank has 130 volunteers who operate the Distribution Centres and Warehouse on a day-to-day basis. This includes Drivers, Shift Supervisors, a Data Input Team, Referral Agent Co-ordinators, a social media and website team and graphics expert.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's governing documents are a Trust Declaration adopted on 16 June 2013 and Supplementary Declaration dated 21st September 2015. There must be a minimum of five trustees and a maximum of eight, who are appointed or re-appointed annually at the AGM held in September. Trustees must be appointed for a term of three years. In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Foodbank. All trustees must sign a confidentiality agreement. All trustees give their time and skills voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

The Foodbank is supported by supporters from many walks of life who provide donations of food, assist with food collections, donate financially and act as volunteers. It works closely with the range of churches in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood, and an extended network of local front-line professionals including all of the local Schools, Doctors' surgeries, Citizens' Advice Bureaux and Social Services. The Foodbank leases two units at Hangersley for use as a warehouse. Distribution Centres are operated from the Wesley Centre in Ringwood, part of the Trinity Church complex, and from the United Reformed Churches in Verwood and Fordingbridge.

In December 2020 Ringwood Foodbank entered into a franchise agreement with the Trussell Trust. We share common values of compassion, justice, dignity and community and are committed to working together to bring about an end to the need for foodbanks by tackling the societal causes of poverty and particularly food poverty.

The Trustees are currently considering whether the current charitable structure is the correct form for the future of the Foodbank. Ringwood Foodbank is a registered charity with an incorporated charitable trust structure, governed by the Deeds noted above. Following advice from Trussell Trust, Trustees are considering other options, including a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Trustees will present their recommendation to the AGM later in 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are the relief of poverty in Ringwood and the surrounding area, specifically including Verwood and Fordingbridge, in particular but not exclusively by providing emergency food supplies to individuals in need and / or charities or other organisations working to relieve poverty. Ringwood Foodbank operates under the auspices of and in accordance with the regulations of the Foodbank Network, part of the Trussell Trust.

The main activity undertaken by the charity is the relief of food hardship and poverty for individuals and families living in and around Ringwood, Verwood and Fordingbridge. This is achieved through the collection of ambient food products donated by individuals, schools, churches and other community groups. The food is sorted and stored and then distributed to those in need. This is done through an e-referral scheme, whereby an electronic referral is issued by a front-line professional who is able to assess that there is a genuine need.

The strategic objectives of Ringwood Foodbank are:

- To provide immediate support to those experiencing poverty
- To ensure that everyone in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood receives the income to which they are entitled
- To work with other groups in the New Forest to develop and implement an anti-poverty action plan.
- To work with local schools to address the needs of families identified by them as vulnerable
- To work with churches to address the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

Ringwood Foodbank works closely with FareShare who supply fruit and vegetables and run Community Larders in Ringwood and Three Legged Cross and with Acts4Sharing in Ringwood. FareShare also operate a larder in Fordingbridge.

The operation of the Foodbank is entirely dependent on volunteers. All Trustees, key post-holders, managers and staff in the warehouse and distribution centre are volunteers. The Trustees wish to express their deep gratitude for the over-whelming level of support given by the people and communities of Ringwood, Verwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding areas.

Achievements and Performance

The year to 31 March 2023 was the tenth of operation of Ringwood Foodbank which has undergone a significant level of growth since its inception in November 2012. The trustees have a rolling three-year development plan for the expansion of services but do not envisage opening further distribution centres at the current time. Ringwood Foodbank is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

A funding and communications team ensures effective communications with both volunteers and the public and work thus far includes a regularly updated Facebook page (RingwoodFoodbank), Instagram account (@ringwoodfoodbank) and an up-to-date website. Due to the generosity of donations and grants, no active fund-raising was undertaken in the last year.

Food donations have been given generously by the people and businesses of the towns and surrounding areas, and a total of 56,038kg with a nominal value of £98,067, was donated in the year to 31 March 2023. 54,088kg with a nominal value of £94,654 has been given out in food parcels.

A total of 5,170 people were fed for three days, compared with 3,268 in the year 2021 - 2022.

Of these 60% were adults and 40% were children.

This is an increase of 58% on the previous year. (See pages 6 and 7.)

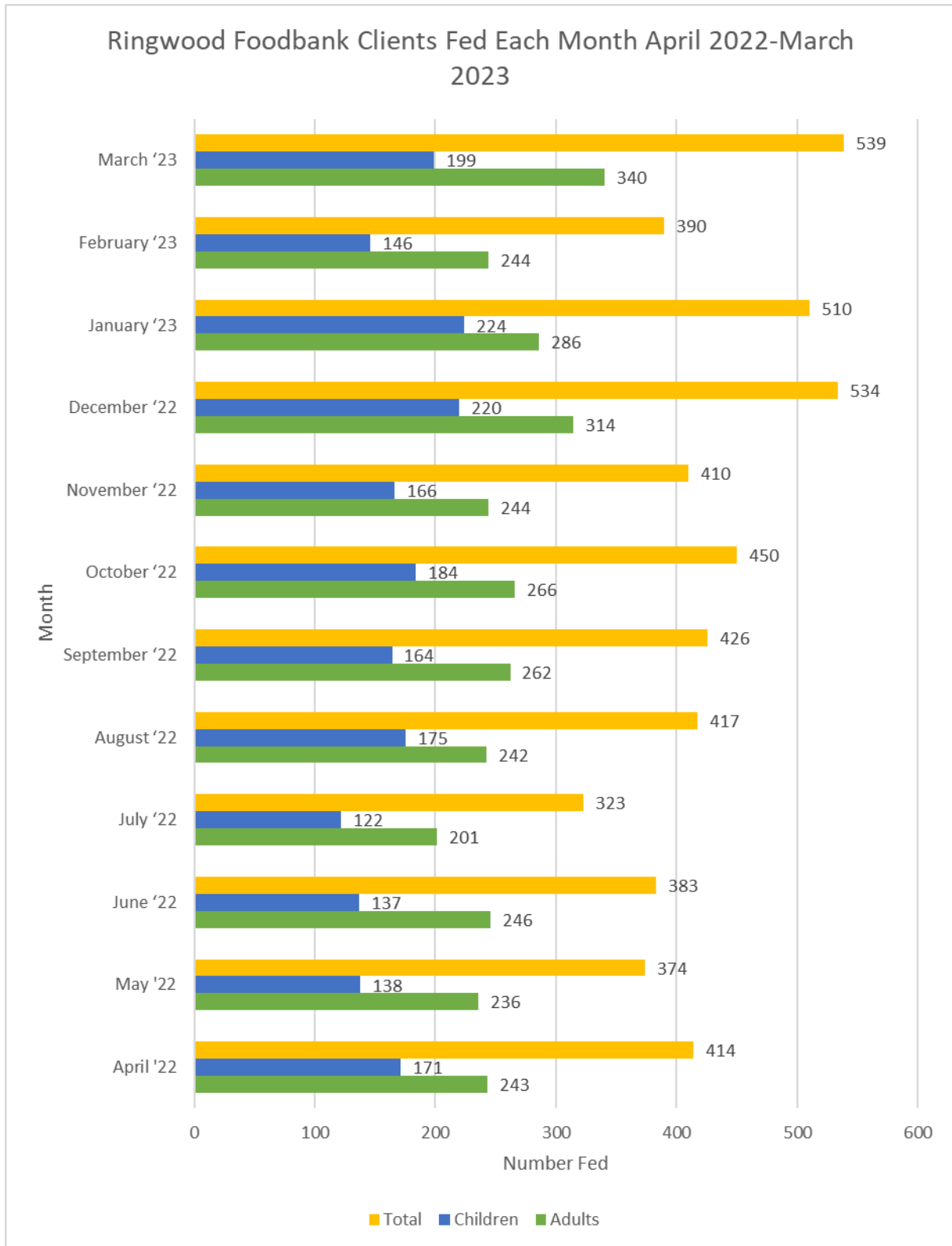
A number of financial donations were received totalling £66,270 and Grants for specific projects totalling £93,529 were also received. These are detailed in the financial statements. The Trustees are grateful to all individuals and organisations who have given financially, as the operation of the Foodbank requires significant income to cover running expenses.

Two of these grants support the work of the two Financial Inclusion Support workers employed by Citizens Advice New Forest. These 'warming grants' were for the purchase of items to help people stay warm through the winter. Items purchased have included bedding, coats and warm clothes and 54 families have been helped in this way.

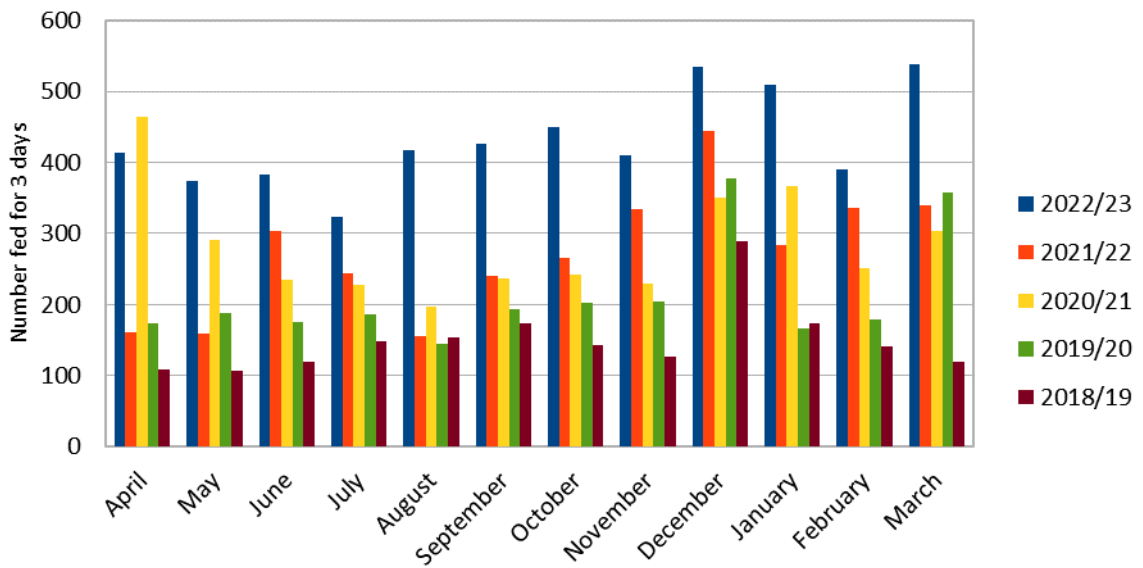
Ringwood Foodbank is grateful to those local businesses which support our work, particularly to the charity FareShare which allows us to provide fresh food to clients, Acts4Sharing and Price's Fish & Chip shop in Ringwood which provides hot meals.

Ringwood Foodbank is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and has taken steps to ensure that it is fully compliant with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations.

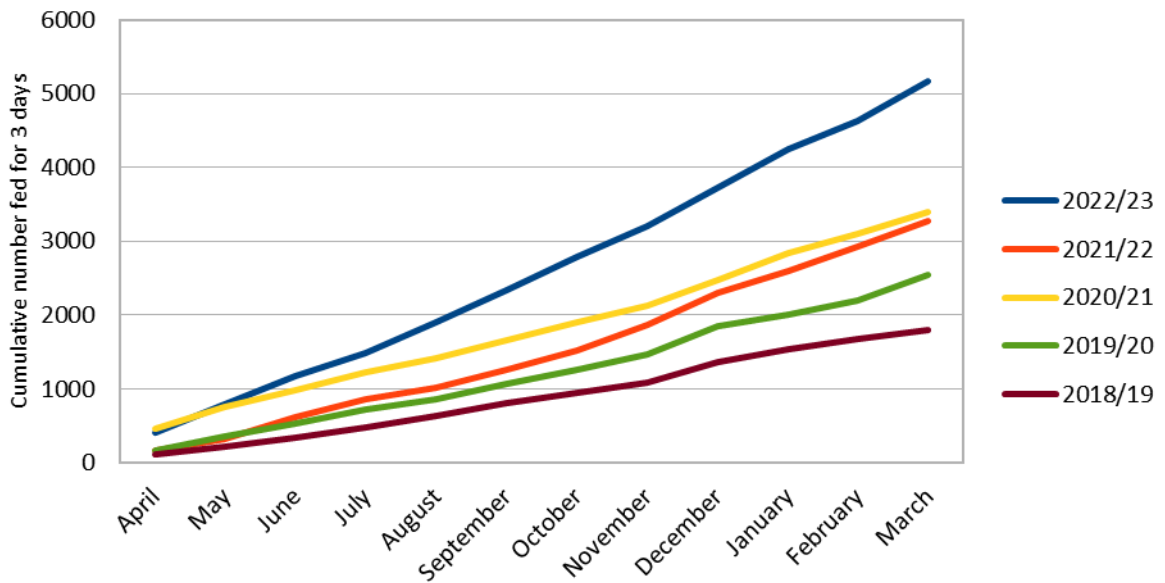
Statistics



Ringwood Foodbank Clients Fed Each Month



Ringwood Foodbank Clients Fed Each Financial Year



During the financial year 2022/23 5170 clients were fed, 1902 more than in the previous year, an increase of 58%. In each of the twelve months the number fed was higher than in 2121/22. This increase was most marked during the first six months of the year when an additional 1074 clients were fed, an increase of 85% compared to the same period in the previous year.

March 2023 saw the highest number of clients fed, 539 closely followed by December 2022 and January 2023 with 534 and 510 respectively. The quietest month of the year was July with 323 clients fed. However this was 32% more than the number fed in July 2021. The number of children fed as a proportion of the total was 40% in 2022/23 compared to 43% in the previous year.

Policies

Ringwood Foodbank has the following policies in place:

1. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults from Abuse (Safeguarding)
2. Health and Safety: Statement of General Policy; Statement of Procedures
3. Donations Acceptance Policy
4. Data Protection Policy
5. Reimbursement for Personal Expenses
6. Lone Working Assessment
7. Financial Control
8. Management of Petty Cash
9. Complaints Procedure
10. Equal Opportunity (Diversity) Policy
11. Problem Solving Procedure (Grievances)
12. Conflicts of Interest
13. Data Retention Policy and Schedule

These are reviewed appropriately. In addition, the Foodbank is operated in accordance with the Operating Manual supplied by the Trussell Trust.

Safeguarding

At Ringwood Foodbank we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Our policy is reviewed and updated annually, and trustees attend regular training courses. We require all volunteers to ensure their behaviour and conduct is consistent with our policy. In order to maintain best practice, volunteers are sent a copy of the policy annually and asked to complete training provided by the Trussell Trust.

A copy of our safeguarding policy can be obtained by contacting us at: info@ringwood.foodbank.org.uk.

Chairman's Statement

Chris Lee, Chairman

Ringwood Foodbank does not have any paid staff. Less than 20% of Foodbanks affiliated to the Trussell Trust are now in this position. It is a credit to all our 130 volunteers that we have continued to provide emergency food in the busiest year we have ever had whilst continuing to develop our services to help those in need. It says a lot about our communities that, at a time when less than 10% of the population volunteer, we continue to be able to function as a volunteer-only organisation and to continue to recruit new volunteers. Our greatest asset is the sense of mission of our volunteers. Thank you to all of our volunteers in your wide range of roles for all your work.

We also received huge support from our communities in terms of food and cash donations and we are grateful to all those that have helped us help those in need.

Demand

We originally thought that demand would reduce after the pandemic. How wrong we were. The Cost of Living crisis has significantly increased demand. 2022/23 was our busiest ever year with 1,975 vouchers fulfilled and food provided for 5,170 people. That is over 46,000 meals which is an increase of over 50%. We are seeing many clients for the first time with families with children or where a member is sick or disabled particularly hard hit. The Trussell Trust estimate that 20% of our clients nationally are in work and we certainly see an increasing number of in-work clients.

Supply

Although food donations increased by nearly 9,000Kg in 22/23 over 21/22, we still found ourselves purchasing nearly 13,000 kgs in order to maintain our stock levels. Despite the cost of living crisis, the generosity of our communities increased, and this is also represented in our cash donations as can be seen in the Treasurer's report.

Ukrainian Guests

Ringwood Foodbank were represented on the Love Ukraine Ringwood steering group set up to assist Ukrainian refugees who arrived as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine and Families for Ukraine Schemes. We were aware that guests would have left Ukraine quickly and with very little money and it would take at least five weeks for them to receive Universal credit. We also wished to help hosts with the additional demands they were likely to have on them. To these ends Trustees agreed that we would provide seven-day food parcels for all Ukrainian guests requesting our assistance. Ringwood Foodbank provided 5,700 meals for our Ukrainian guests as well as toiletries and SIM cards providing free calls, texts and data. The latter were provided by Vodaphone.

Local Campaign Manager

This post, funded by The Trussell Trust, and employed by Citizens Advice New Forest, was filled from July to December 2022 after which the Manager left. During that time considerable progress had been made in the development of six hubs across the New Forest, one of which was in Fordingbridge. The hubs were focussed around a FareShare Larder but also had Citizens Advice and New Forest District Council staff available to provide advice to those who required it. There had also been progress on communication across the New Forest to those worried about the cost of living with the development and circulation of leaflets letting residents know where advice and support were available. A new Local Campaign Manager was appointed in April and will be taking forward the envisaged role, campaigning for an end for the need for Foodbanks, as well as overseeing the development of a New Forest Poverty action plan.

Financial Inclusion

Commencing in July 2022, with the help of a grant from the Trussell Trust, we have been able to fund Financial Inclusion Support workers to work with our clients to help them address the financial issues they are facing that contributed to them having to use a Foodbank. These workers are employed and supported by Citizens Advice New Forest. This scheme has been a great success with financial gains to clients of over £180,000 being achieved. There is more work to do on debt for our clients and we intend to address this in the coming year. Clients have really valued the intensive support that this team have been able to give them.

Warm Spaces and items

We worked in partnership with Ringwood Town Mayor and Churches Together to support the warm spaces initiative. The TH Russell Trust kindly provided a grant which enabled Ringwood Library to open an additional day a week. Activities and refreshments were provided, and the Ringwood Library volunteers supported the Library staff on these days.

Grants provided by the Trussell Trust and Hampshire County Council enabled us to provide warm clothing, bedding, heaters, hot water bottles, flasks, microwave ovens and energy saving devices to clients. Many of the items were identified as being needed by the Financial Inclusion support workers and purchased by us. This allowed us to ensure clients got what they needed. We are also grateful to Community First for putting together packs of warm items and energy saving devices to distribute to clients.

Slow Cookers

A grant from the Hendy Foundation enabled us to purchase slow cookers for distribution to clients and to vulnerable families identified by Ringwood Schools following short courses on how to use them. Courses were run in Ringwood Distribution Centre and in Ringwood School and so far 21 families have benefitted. More courses are planned in Ringwood and Emmanuel School, Verwood in the near future.

Schools Engagement

In 2022 Ringwood Foodbank were invited to join a Local Schools Hardship group chaired by the Pastor from Poulner Baptist Church. The purpose of this group is to assist schools to support their vulnerable families. This has significantly improved our relationship with schools in Ringwood and Fordingbridge as has seen an increase in referrals from Schools to us. In addition, we have been able to support families identified by schools with fuel vouchers, warm items and slow cookers. The group is currently discussing with Citizens Advice the employment of a Financial Support worker who will be based in schools. Ringwood Foodbank has agreed to provide some funding for this post as a means of trying to ensure vulnerable families do not need to use our services.

Church Engagement

In addition to the work under schools engagement we continue to enjoy a good relationship with our church community. Our three distribution centres are based in churches and we continue to work with Churches Together in Ringwood to provide Christmas parcels to children on free school meals. Unfortunately, we were unable this year to support the provision of a meal on Christmas Day as no organisation was providing one, but we hope to remedy that in 2023.

Multi Agency Working

We are grateful to be able to work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies to assist the financially vulnerable in our communities, particularly those that are active in referring clients to us. I have mentioned some of those we work with above, but we are also pleased to work with the Social Prescriber and her team from the Avon Valley Practices in the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. We are very grateful to Acts4Sharing for the use of their van to distribute food to our centres and for our ability to refer clients needing furniture, bedding and clothing to them for support. We are also represented on the New Forest Cost of Living group which brings together New Forest District Council, the Foodbanks in the Forest, Community First and Citizens Advice. The focus of the group in the coming year will be the development of a New Forest Cost of Living plan. We are pleased that our volunteers are able to support FareShare Larders, which provide heavily discounted food to its members, in Ringwood and Three Legged Cross as these larders are a step on from Foodbanks. We are also pleased to be able to work with Ringwood Infant School and Ringwood Parish Church on the 'Meet & Eat' project, where vulnerable families can meet and chat over a free meal.

Strategic Objectives

We have also revised our strategic plan this year and the headlines are:

Our vision is that people experiencing poverty in the Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood Areas receive sufficient help and support to enable them to avoid destitution and ultimately the need to use Foodbanks.

Strategic Objectives:

1. To continue to provide immediate support to those experiencing poverty
2. To ensure that everyone in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood receives the income they are entitled to
3. To work with other groups in the New Forest to develop and implement an anti-poverty action plan.
4. To work with local schools to address the needs of families identified by them as vulnerable
5. To work with churches to address the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

Values:

We adopt the Trussell Trust values of compassion, dignity, community and justice as the basis for everything we do.

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2023

Mr Jonathan Gibson, Treasurer

We continue to have wonderful support from local people and organisations and are very fortunate in this respect. The Trustees are most grateful.

As noted in the Chairman's report, following the end of the pandemic in February 2022, we might have expected a fall in the need for foodbank services and a similar fall in donations. However, with the rise of the cost of living crisis starting last year, we have experienced a big increase in the need for Foodbank services in addition to an increase in donations. In fact, not only are donations, at £66,270, higher than the previous year, they are also higher than at the height of the pandemic. Associated gift aid is reported as nil in the current year, since the claim has yet to be processed due to delays in accessing the .gov HMRC web site. This has now been resolved.

Again, as noted in the Chairman's report, and also as reported in the Trussell Trust annual report published in 2022, many Foodbanks have entered into a formal partnership with the Trussell Trust to help people in need deal with both accessing Universal Credit and coping with the effects of the Financial Crisis. Grants totalling £74,434 have been received from the Trussell Trust. Restricted grants totalling £19,000 have also been received from, Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, The Hendy Foundation, and the TH Russel Trust to provide purchased food and winter support spaces and equipment.

Unrestricted Foodbank running costs (warehouse rental, transport and admin costs), excluding food purchases, have remained roughly constant at £21,000 in comparison to the prior year. Utility costs for operating the warehouse at Hangersley are reported as nil, since these were paid in April 2023, after the end of the financial year.

As a result in the large increase in donations for the year, and further project grants still to be paid after the year end, total Foodbank bank resources have increased from £102,000 to £158,000.

The Trustees have continued with their policy of prudence and fairness in managing the financial affairs of Ringwood Foodbank and continue in that vein.

A professional audit is not required for these accounts since the income of the charity continues to be less than £250,000, the level prescribed by the Charity Commission for a professional audit.

Trustees express their gratitude to Mr Terry Riggs for having examined and reported on the Financial Statements in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees of Ringwood Foodbank seek to maintain adequate reserves to ensure that all reasonable day-to-day running costs can be met as and when they fall due, recognising the basic financial principle that the Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that solvency is maintained. Due to the uncertainties caused by the ongoing challenging economic climate, the current reserves are considered appropriate to cope with any further increased call on the charity's resources.

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2023

RINGWOOD FOODBANK

SECTION A - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FROM 01/04/22 TO 31/03/23

	Year to 31/3/23			Year to to 31/3/22		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>SECTION A - RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</u>						
<u>RECEIPTS</u>						
Grants for Projects	93,529		93,529	18,688	12,500	31,188
500 Club		8,128	8,128		5,980	5,980
Donations		66,270	66,270		26,530	26,530
HMRC, GiftAid		0	0		1,672	1,672
Interest		589	589		171	171
TOTAL RECEIPTS	93,529	74,987	168,516	18,688	46,853	65,541
<u>PAYMENTS</u>						
Restricted Project costs	78,509		78,509	28,558		28,558
Rent/lease Costs		11,400	11,400		10,860	10,860
Food purchases	9,500	3,834	13,334		8,946	8,946
Telephone/internet		1,351	1,351		1,508	1,508
Other Project costs		2,637	2,637		4,367	4,367
Stationery & Computer		1,303	1,303		852	852
Transport		2,386	2,386		1,543	1,543
Sundries		1,223	1,223		904	904
Utilities (paid in April 23)		0	0		490	490
Insurance		495	495		495	495
Affiliations		-	0		-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	88,009	24,629	112,638	28,558	29,965	58,523
NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR	5,520	50,358	55,878	-9,870	16,888	7,018

SECTION B - STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Movement in Bank Balances

Opening Bank balances	6,889	95,640	102,529	16,759	78,752	95,511
Movement in Funds	5,520	50,358	55,878	-9,870	16,888	7,018
Closing Bank balances	12,409	145,998	158,407	6,889	95,640	102,529

Statement of the Independent Examiner



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	RINGWOOD FOODBANK		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st MARCH 20023	Charity no	1152574
	Set out on page <small>(insert number of pages or numbers of additional sheets)</small> FOURTEEN		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 16/6/23
Name: TERENCE JAMES BIGGI

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: EAST LODGE
SANDLEHEATH ROAD
ALDERHOLT SP6 3EG

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report as above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

.....

Mr Chris Lee
Chairman

Date.....