

Secondary Assembly August 2018

Slide 1 Foodbank Cover slide Before moving to slide 2 ask:

- What do you know about foodbank?
- What do some people think of foodbank?

Slide 2 Common misconceptions based on some media coverage of foodbanks

Slide 3 So what do Foodbanks actually do?

- Break down the explanation; “crisis” basically means an emergency. People don’t always make great life choices, but foodbank can offer a breathing space and time to get things sorted.
- **Case study;** *A professional couple visited Foodbank. She was a doctor but had got cancer and had had to give up work. He was a solicitor. His job was too demanding to allow him to spend the time he needed to look after his wife, taking her to appointments etc . and he was also forced to give up work. They had a big house, nice cars etc., but it only took 3 months for them to reach the end of their savings leaving them in dire need of basics like food.*
- An underlying circumstance could be simply an unexpected bill but it could be something a bit deeper; a change in circumstance for example a relationship breakdown, an addiction or inability to budget. Some of these things take ages to sort out.
- **Case study;** *A guy came into foodbank because he was homeless. It started with a drink driving offence. He got points on his license that then meant he couldn’t drive for his job. After losing his job he turned to alcohol and his girlfriend left with their daughter leaving him homeless, depressed and alcoholic. He’s making progress, but has needed lots of support.*

Slide 4-5 Foodbank in local statistics. So far this year demand has increased by 10%

Slide 6 What motivates people to help in this way? BCFB is a Christian organisation. The Bible gives a basic command to “Feed the hungry” Almost all faith groups have a similar command, so it’s something that can unite people of faith.

Slide 7 The Storehouse. This is where most donations go to be sorted and dated, ready for redistribution. We take about 2 tonnes a month, except during Harvest and Christmas, that’s October to Jan, when we collect around 20 tonnes a month. The Storehouse isn’t open to the public as it’s a warehouse, but we do have an amazing team of volunteers that work in sometimes severe cold to get food out.

Slide 8 How it all works. Someone gets to crisis point (bottom right. Call him Sam) Sam will visit someone who can help with their specific need, this could be a debt counsellor, drug and alcohol recovery agency, Citizens Advice, Family centre, even school can help families to get the support that they need. The worker will assess the situation and start to put help in place to support Sam out of crisis; part of this support may be a foodbank voucher. Sam can then take his voucher along to a Foodbank and receive a bag of food and toiletries to keep him going for a few days. Things like cereal, soup, pasta, veg, coffee, desserts, milk and fruit juice all long life tins and packets.

At the top right Diane has donated some food to the Storehouse. This is processed and delivered to one of the 21 foodbanks across the region, ready for someone like Sam to collect.

Slide 9 Donations so far this year.

Slide 10 Map of the Black Country which shows the Storehouse in Brierley Hill. There are 21 Foodbanks across the region

Slide 11 A couple of our foodbanks in action