



Our purpose. The Greenwich Foodbank is an independent charity, created by the churches of Greenwich, that partners with local communities and frontline care professionals to provide emergency food to people in crisis.

In practice we will provide a household with food to allow a balanced and nutritional diet for three days. Typically this is a one-off provision to bridge the gap between "the crisis" and statutory support. This food is not a substitute for any other help or support. In the past two years we have expanded this to include personal hygiene items.

We partner with around 200 agencies who have a duty of care to at least one demographic group in our community (The Royal Borough of Greenwich). These agencies identify individuals and families who are suffering food poverty and refer them to the Foodbank. We then provide the client's household with emergency food and toiletries and if necessary, signpost them to further help. Last year we distributed emergency food to feed 6200 people. So far, this year we are experiencing a 20% increase compared to last year. 40% of this number are children.

Almost all the 60 tonne of food we will distribute this year will have been donated by the general public. 10 tonne will be donated during the harvest season, mainly by Primary schools in Greenwich.



The reasons why people need to come to us vary. It may be sickness, loss of employment, family breakdown, abuse, failures in the benefit system or debt. Whatever, the reason we provide a welcoming environment in our eight centres around the borough where people can access our service.

The Foodbank relies on the generous donations of people in Greenwich. Every donation makes a difference, but some food (like tinned carrots) is in short supply and other food (like baked beans and pasta) is plentiful. The Foodbank's emergency parcels are made up from non-perishable, basic food items.

This Year so far we have accepted 1710 referrals and provided food for 2247 adults and 1875 children. This has required 34.6 tonne of food. This is a 20% increase over last year.

So how do I know what to donate?

Each parcels has items to provide breakfast, lunch and diner plus a few treats such a biscuits, snacks and sweets.

If in doubt, the five golden items are:

- Tinned carrots,
- Long life fruit juice,
- Long life milk,
- Tinned fruit,
- Sugar



Where can I donate food?

Almost all of the large supermarket stores in the borough have a donation point near the checkouts. Civic buildings such as Charlton House, Woolwich and Eltham centres have donation points along with many churches. Some people use online-shopping to get food delivered to our main warehouse in Eltham.

But there is an even easier way to decide what and where to donate. The Greenwich Foodbank has a smart phone app, freely available from the Google and Apple stores, which is updated regularly. So next time you're out shopping, to find out in 'real time' what's on the red list of desperately needed food, just click on the Foodbank icon and scroll. To download the app: search Foodbank on the Google play store or the Apple store.

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