

Coronavirus - the impact on food banks



As coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to severely affect our communities, there is still a significant demand for our frontline advice services.

Having helped 974 people so far, we are seeing that the situation is starting to impact other services within our local communities.

Food banks

A good example of this is the demand for food banks, as more and more people are requesting food parcels that have never required them before. This is placing an increasing strain on the food banks' resources leading to the potential of severe shortages.

Case Study

This can be seen with the recent evidence from our Feeding Britain Project. This is work we carry out exclusively with Glossopdale Foodbank, who send us referrals following requests for food parcels. Since the coronavirus outbreak in early March, we have received three times as many referrals compared to the same period last year.

Glossopdale Foodbank have recently confirmed that they've had to spend a significant extra amount to replenish stocks, as they were running very low. They have advised that their funds cannot sustain spending at this level for a long period and are urgently seeking donations. This is a situation that is likely to be repeated in foodbanks across all our districts.

Reasons for the increase in demand

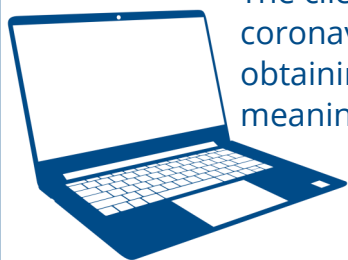
We have seen a number of different reasons why there has been an increase in demand for food parcels. These reasons reflect the common enquiries that Citizens Advice have been helping with recently, namely;

Self-employment

Being laid-off

Agency work

Self Employed



Case Study

The client is self employed and due to coronavirus, he is having difficulties obtaining payment for his invoices, meaning he has no income.

How we are helping

We provided assistance to the client to help him claim Universal Credit. We also provided contact details for claiming hardship payments from the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund whilst also completing a food bank referral to commence immediately.

Being laid-off

Case Study

The client has been temporarily laid off due to coronavirus. His employer has informed him that he will be paid through the furlough scheme but he is still awaiting payment.

How we are helping

We confirmed that the client had made a claim for Universal Credit, provided him with details of the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund and made a food parcel referral to his local food bank.

Agency work

Case Study

The client called to say that he is an agency worker and is self isolating for three months due to having severe asthma. He will therefore not receive any income whilst self isolating.



How we are helping

We provided information to enable the client to claim Universal Credit. We also made a foodbank referral for three weeks to allow time for the Universal Credit claim to be set up and paid.

Increased outgoings

Case Study

As a result of her children not being at school, the client had increased outgoings. Her Universal Credit payment has not lasted the month and she needed help with food for her and her children.

How we are helping

We made a referral to the Buxton food bank so the client could get a food parcel. The client was advised that she could call back if she needs further help but stated that she usually manages on her Universal Credit payment.

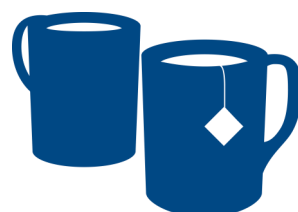
The continuing role of food banks

It is clear that food banks are playing a key role in helping people who are struggling during this unprecedented time. If food banks start to experience shortages, they may find it difficult to provide this crucial service to people, so donations will continue to play a vital role.

When people are referred to us by the food banks, we are able to offer a holistic service and seek to resolve the underlying issues. This is a two way process and we will continue to work with partners to ensure people can get food parcels and have their issues resolved.

Help your local community

If you're in a position to help, please do your bit by providing donations (food and/or money) or volunteering your time to your local food bank. You can find more information on [Derbyshire County Council's website](#) or on individual food bank websites and social media pages.



We encourage people to seek advice early. The sooner they contact us the sooner we can help find solutions.

We are committed to working within the community to provide pro-active and long-term support for our clients.

Call our Adviceline on 0300 456 8390

Lines open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

(Calls charged as 01 & 02 numbers)