**Manager’s report April 2024**

Last year in April, I let you know that Heather Buckingham, director of policy and research at the Trussell Trust, told the BBC that a single person receiving Universal Credit gets **£35 a week** short of the amount the charity thinks is needed to afford the very basic essentials.

April is the month where benefits and pensions are increased. A single person on Universal Credit now receives an additional **£25 per month**.

This month Wallingford food bank has sent food to 284 adults, 185 children in 156 households, compared with 176 adults, 137 children in 118 households in the same month last year. The increase in the numbers of adults (61.4%) is for the first time in months, significantly higher that the increase in numbers of children (35.0%). This may be explained by the fact that we additionally helped approximately 24 families, missing their children’s free school meals during Easter holidays with supermarket vouchers (referred via schools). Many thanks to David and Corinne for arranging this.

With the holiday season starting for many volunteers and with increasing demand for our services, a few more regular drivers would be most welcome. You need to have the use of a car (ideally with a big boot!), be available on a Monday, Thursday, or Friday between 1230 and 2pm, be able to carry heavy shopping bags and be willing to explore the far-reaches of our area seeking out the places where our clients live. We pay mileage of course.

With many thanks

Alice Penney

