**Manager’s report May 2024**

May has been a steadier month. We have fed 295 adults and 222 children in 154 households this month, compared with 228 adults, 158 children in 138 households last year. This is an increase of 11.6% in demand, on top of a 40% increase last year in the same month.

It may not be a surprise to many of you, that with this seemingly endless increase in demand, despite your steady support, we are finally joining other UK food banks in facing a deficit. Other local food banks, (Abingdon Didcot) have already faced huge issues in providing for their clients. We have calculated that with a continuing increase in demand we are likely to run out of funds by the end of the year.

I am now in the position of asking those of you who already support us financially, to consider a small increase in your regular giving, if you are able. If you do not already support us financially, please would you consider doing so. A small regular amount would be an enormous help.

It is straightforward to do so. If you receive this report electronically just click on the link here <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/7211#!/DonationDetails>

If not, please visit our website and look at the donate page for ideas as to how to help, both financially and with donations of food.

The need has never been greater.

We have dealt with Bank Holidays a little differently this year as we have given double amounts of food to those requesting it on those Mondays immediately before a Bank holiday, (plus Good Friday). This has avoided the historical shift of those who have missed a delivery on a Monday, to the Thursday. It also means that those clients are not waiting extra days for more food.

Sadly, this month I must report that we have identified two individuals who have misled the food bank. It is unfortunately the case that when something is free, especially in these challenging times, there will be those who seek to exploit others’ generosity. I am glad that our systems are robust and have allowed us to end this activity.

We were very grateful this month to have a series of donations from the Lighthouse Nursery School. It is wonderful to still have that support from local organisations.

Thank you all so much

Alice Penney

