**Manager’s Report August 2023**

August has been a relatively quiet month at food bank and follows the pattern of the last few months in seeing a more modest increase in demand. We have fed 225 (213) adults, 162 (141) children in 119 (125) households. Last year’s figures in brackets. This is a decrease in households over the month of -4.8% on last August. Last year saw an increase in the number of households of 64.5% on the previous year. We are still seeing larger numbers of children compared to last year, showing that there are still lots of families in difficulties.

These figures do not include the 16 families that we have supported fortnightly through the summer holidays. These families are those who especially miss the free school meals that their children receive during term time. We take referrals from local schools and send the families supermarket vouchers. Depending on the supermarket in which they choose to use them, they can also buy school uniform with the vouchers. We hope that this supports children in their return to school next week.

We are very much hoping that this slowing of the increase in demand continues into the colder months.

September brings the beginning of Harvest, so if you are involved with a school, church or other organisation that has a harvest celebration and want to donate your gifts to the food bank please get in touch as soon as you can. We operate from the Ridgeway church, which is a busy building and must plan deliveries to avoid causing chaos. The boost that harvest brings to our stocks is significant and gives us hope that we can meet the need in the coming months.

We hope that you have had a chance to rest over the summer and are feeling restored and ready for the autumn.

With thanks for all your support

Alice Penney