**Manager’s report March 2025**

This month, we have fed 307 adults, 149 children in 135 households, including 10 new households. This compares with 334 adults, 210 children and 180 households in the same month last year. With Easter falling quite late this year, we have also had some extra days compared to last March.

It continues to surprise us that demand has eased in recent months. We are still well above 2023 but down from the peak of the first half 2024.

New data on poverty and food insecurity for April 2023 to March 2024 was released by the DWP at the end of last week.

* 7.5 million people reported food insecurity up from 7.2 million in 2022-23
* 2.8 million people used a food bank in the past year up from 2.3 million people
* 1.5m people in households receiving PIP are food insecure while 570,000 used a food bank
* 4.5 million children are living in poverty
* 6.3m people in poverty were in a family with disabled family member - almost half of all people in poverty
* 84% of UK households reporting severe food insecurity (skipping meals, reducing food intake due to lack of money to afford food) did not use a food bank.

We do not record details of individual circumstances so I cannot indicate how many of our clients will find theirs improved or worsened when the government’s changes take effect. I hope this helps to understand the current situation.

We are very grateful for your support which allows us to help those in need locally. Several schools have sent us wonderful donations this month, including Easter eggs which we are in the process of sending out.

With my best wishes for Easter

Alice Penney