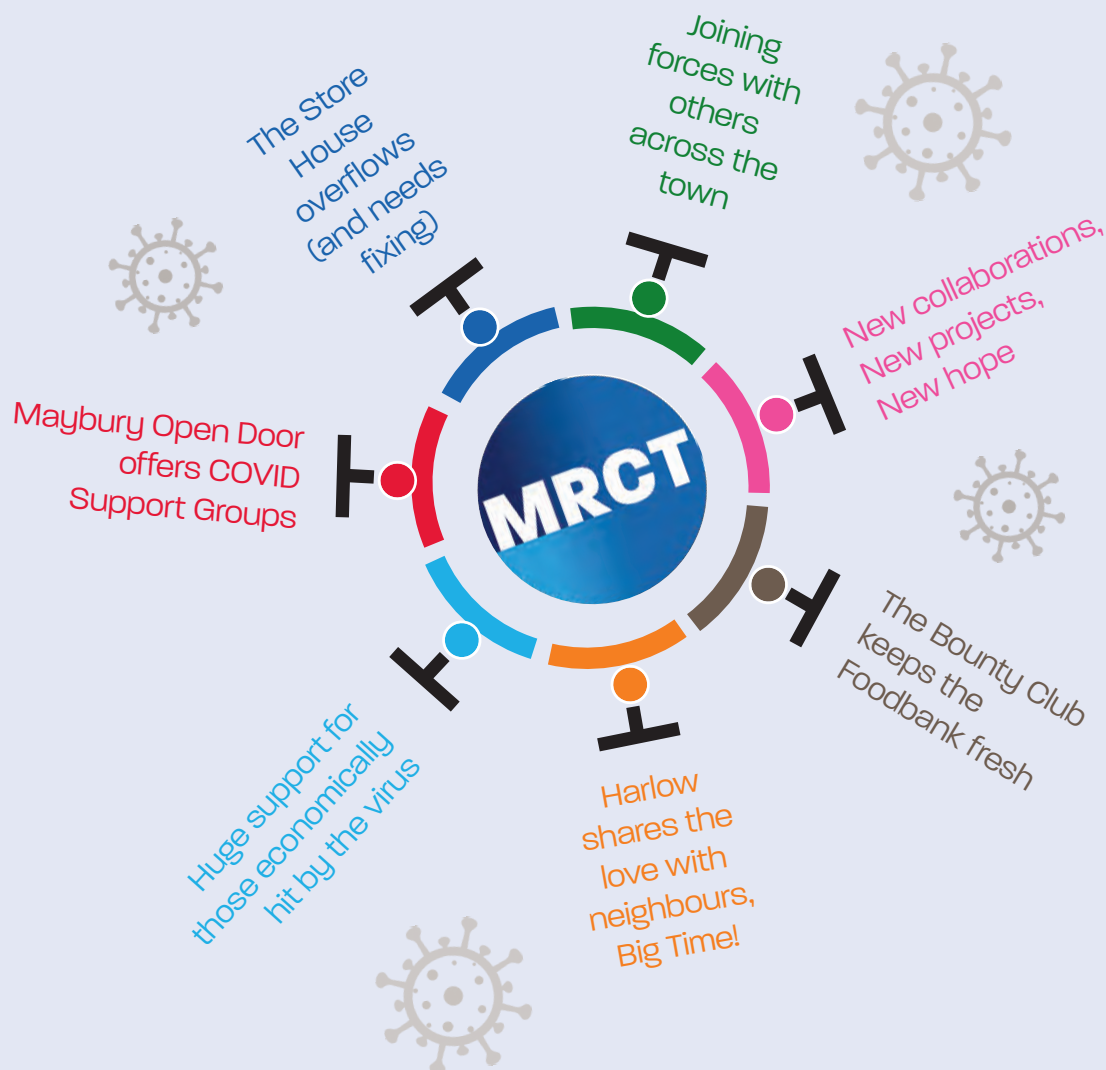


Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Developing lives, enriching community

Annual Report

2020-21



A year like no other...

Faith, hope and love in the global lock down

Our response - thanks to your help!





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Our vision is that everyone can belong and participate in their communities, knowing that they are significant, valued, included and wanted.

Our vision is that no one should go hungry, or without the means to bring up their children, heat their homes or live in dignity. Anyone in that position should know that they are supported by those around them until things are good again.

Our vision is fuelled by the belief that nobody is excluded, unwanted or overlooked by God, whose love is revealed through Jesus.



INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CEO



Last year gave “2020 vision” a whole new meaning... Who could have foreseen it?

This report summarises ‘business not as usual’ as we took our place amongst the many agencies and individuals whose heroic work tackled the impact of the coronavirus in and around Harlow.

The team at MRCT were incredible: flexible, innovative and resilient. I can’t thank our staff, volunteers and trustees enough for the way they expended themselves in service.

Each of our projects had a different kind of demand; some had to close for months, others went into overdrive. I arrived halfway through the year as we improvised in response to the fast-changing landscape.

It was sadly a year of great tragedy for so many people. Lives snatched away too soon by the virus. Families in crisis through the pressures of lockdown. Financial pressures lead to the highest ever demand on Foodbanks. Research found that more than 1 in 20 households in the UK accessed Foodbank support. That figure is the same for us in Harlow: 5% of households have been to the Foodbank one or more times.

Alongside this we also saw the best of human nature. Spontaneous generosity and thoughtfulness; the wonders of our welfare systems in action: NHS, caring services, and the government’s financial rescue packages redistributing our common wealth for common benefit.

In this review you will see so many examples of this generosity emanating from MRCT’s work.

More than ever we served as a conduit for the good will of neighbour to neighbour. We received an incredible amount of food donations, financial donations and heart-warming encouragement for being part of a townwide army of volunteers who joined forces to meet others’ needs.

When trouble struck, MRCT was ready - and for that we again thank our Founders, Gary and Teresa Knott, for their ‘2020 vision’: building MRCT on a strong foundation of faith rooted in the love of God for those on the margins. This

came into vivid perspective as we all experienced the effects of social isolation. We could clearly see why Maybury Open Door attendees have valued its life-changing support for over 20 years!

In 2020 -21 the economic response to the virus showed the enormous difference that a £20 a week boost can make to millions on Universal Credit; and what a shock it would be to now remove it. At the end of the year I was left considering how we as a nation are applying that ‘golden rule’ of all faiths: treating others as we would like to be treated. If we did we would create a national insurance system (UC) that offers each of us what we could live on if disaster struck us in the way it has so many this year. Right now that doesn’t seem to be in place.

This report reflects on why this matters to us as Trussell Trust associates. Trussell Foodbanks don’t exist to give food away, but to end hunger. We would prefer to not exist! That is part of our vision as we tackle the effects and the causes of poverty together.

Through the generosity of individuals, churches and other faith groups, businesses, charities, through well-placed social interventions and supportive social policy we look for a better world.

For that we work, pray, thank God, and with huge gratitude - we thank you!



Andy Thornton
Chief Executive Officer
June 2021



MAYBURY OPEN DOOR



Maybury Open Door is our drop in centre which operates 3 days a week in two church venues in the town.

Maybury supports a wide range of adults including elderly, people with a disability, homeless, isolated people and others who just need to venture out and meet new friends.

For over 20 years Maybury has been a valuable remedy for those needing friendship and support.

In April 2020 the whole population began to get a taste of what it is like to be isolated. Lockdown was tough!

Sadly, at that same moment the infectiousness of COVID meant that groups like Maybury Open Door had to close their doors. All of our staff team were put on furlough.

You can imagine the sadness and helplessness of the situation.

By October we were desperate to restart the service and discovered that we could change its format to become a 'Support Group': a government – approved way of giving up to 15 people more intensive and structured support in a COVID safe environment.

Our team had been keeping in touch with Maybury regulars by phone to check that they were OK. Now a Support Group would offer them the chance to return to Maybury. So we brought the team back from furlough!

Then the rules changed, again and again... and it wasn't until March that we could schedule restarting fully. However over that period we were in touch with our regulars by phone, and that familiar listening ear made a big difference.

Thankfully the Support Group format got a great boost when we received funding from the CAF Resilience Fund, enabling us to develop the service as a tailor made response to the isolation experienced through COVID.

By the end of the year the Support Group members were reporting a significant boost in their well-being. Maybury was their 'family' and they had been able to come home.

Special thanks...

Our thanks go again to the amazing staff and volunteers who have made Maybury such a special place for old friends and new, every week.

Here are some of their comments:

"I really struggled during the lock-down because I am on my own and really worried about everything. I missed very much social contact and social interaction."

"Finally I can put something in my calendar and look forward to it every week"

"The Team help me to keep things going in the right direction."

"M.O.D opening again has lifted the heavy feeling during covid."

"During COVID I lost all confidence—I didn't go out anywhere for a whole year. This is the one place I now come and socialise..."





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



The story of the year- in one graph...

Until 2020 Harlow Foodbank gave out nearly all the 'emergency food' across the town.

By April 2020 a number of supportive charities alongside the government-funded Community Hub were supporting those shielding from the virus. Thousands of the most vulnerable were told to stay at home and wait for food to be brought to them.

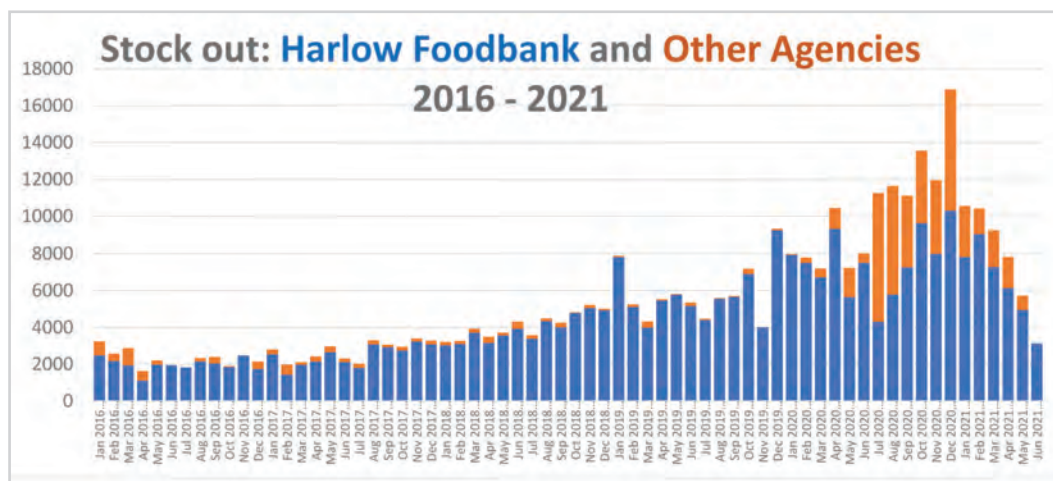
A number of charities started to collect short shelf-life items from supermarkets and deliver to neighbours across the town the next day.

By contrast Harlow Foodbank specialises in storing and distributing longer life food. We

realised we could help other food donors and take advantage of their capacity to deliver. We supplied longer shelf-life food to add to their parcels. As more people asked them for help we continued, supplying the food equivalent of over 100,000 meals in partnership with others.

As a result our statistics for last year look different!

They can be split into 2: the food we gave away through our own Foodbank (blue on graph), and that which we gave away through others (orange).



Special thanks...

We want to give special thanks and recognition to our awesome staff, volunteers and those amazing charities and organisers who stepped up to distribute food to their communities during the pandemic.

In particular our partners at:

- Community Embrace
- Changing Lives
- Safer Places
- Streets 2 Homes

169,077 kg

Total food given out 2020—21

8,441

individuals fed via 3,620 packages

153%

food given this year compared to last

15,156 kg

fresh food to Harlow schools & charities

3,466

children getting 4 days' food portions

42,694 kg

to other charities (101,000 meals)

28,733

meals to Harlow Permitted Developments



Unbelievable but true...

If all the food we gave out last year was sugar, the bags could stretch from Harlow to Chelmsford !





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



Record breaking donations



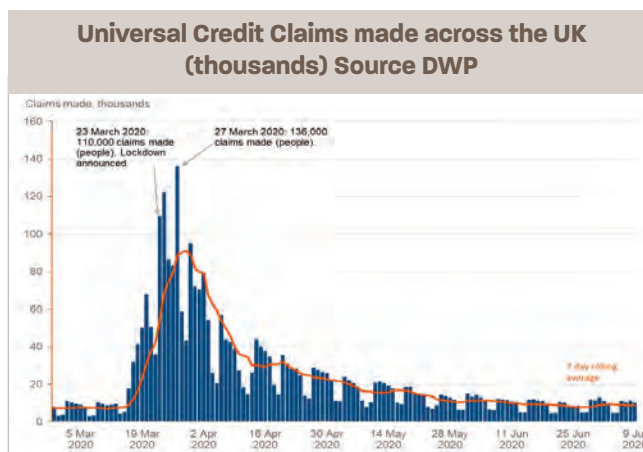
On page 5 we summarised the incredible amount of food that went through the Store House and Foodbank in 2020-21. There really has never been a year like it.

This graph from the government's web site tells the back story: a huge rise in claimants reaching out for Universal Credit support when other elements of government support didn't apply to them.

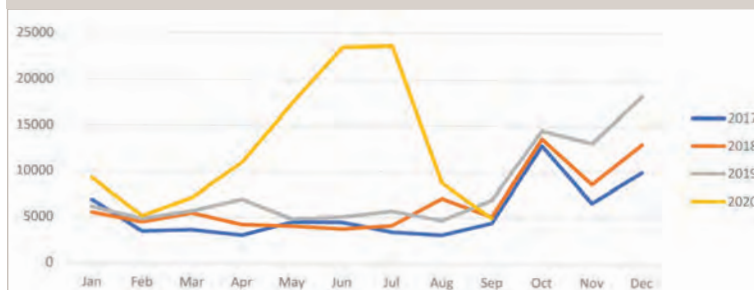
Below that national picture is our graph of stock coming in to the Foodbank.

In comparison to the previous year's pattern we saw a huge rise in donations (yellow line) soon after the lockdown.

This was a combination of the increase in local individuals giving generously through the supermarkets, plus many local businesses who, when forced to close, cleared their shelves and sent the stock our way. Thanks everyone!



Harlow Foodbank food donated 2017—20 calendar year (by kg weight)



A Harvest for Harlow

When schools returned in September they were thinking about catching up with lost time. Few were thinking about business as usual, such as Harvest Festivals (our second busiest time of year for donations aside from Christmas).

We were delighted to have support from Harlow-based CBBC actress Hannah-Jane Fox to make a short video that shows schools what happens to food donated to us. You can still watch it on our Facebook site or through https://youtu.be/uc-wMFvB_C8.



In our enthusiasm to help the town we just stacked it all up! On page 12 we tell the story of when the Store House started to buckle under the pressure...

Thankfully many schools and churches found ways to do COVID-safe food collections for us. Most schools sent a willing teacher with their donations, and some churches held donations days when the buildings were closed. Thanks so much to all those who gave at Harvest!





HARLOW FOODBANK & BOUNTY CLUB



Free School Meal Children get our help



Over the 2020 summer holidays the government stepped in with funds for parents whose children were on Free School Meals. By the October half-term there was controversy as this was not going to be sustained.

Footballer Marcus Rashford stole the headlines with a powerful voice advocating for children in poverty.

Harlow Council asked us to help and funded us to give food parcels to children on Free School Meals.

Within a day we had got the word out to 60,000 people through our Facebook network, notifying them that this support was available.

During that week we supported 515 children in 209 families, and thankfully the government changed their policy for the rest of the year, ensuring that all families got holiday meal support.



Christmas goes crazy

By Christmas our Store House was bulging. Trevor joined forces adding the Bounty Club van to our pick-up fleet. This ensured that we could pick up the huge quantities of food being donated through supermarkets (see image below) and hundreds joined our 12 days of Christmas appeal to give more food and thousands of pounds in donations. We gave parcels to 1,900 in this period.



Special thanks...

In order to overcome problems reaching those in need we set up relationships with Harlow Schools, placing our food parcels on their premises ready to hand to those in need.

We are grateful to the 20 schools who took up the offer and helped families directly throughout the year.

Door service only

Sadly our team at St Paul's and the Salvation Army were constrained to giving food to clients by the front door.

We want to give special thanks and credit to all those who still showed up despite the health risks and gave out a record number of food parcels in an extraordinary year's service.



Diary of an amazing year! So m Thank you

2020

APRIL 30

Supporters recognise that we are becoming 'the 4th Emergency Service', supporting those confined to their homes.



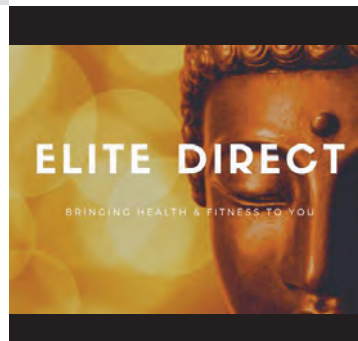
MAY 16

Bobby McGlinchy (aged 7) made his first delivery. He went on to collect 1,836 kg of food from neighbours over the next year!



MAY 18

Volunteers offer to help us deliver to people's homes - We had previously only been able to give out through our church.

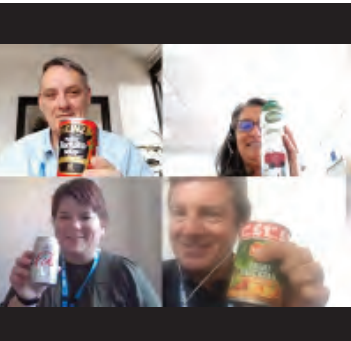


MAY 23

Elite Direct experiments with an online Pilates and Yoga class, raising £614 for us in the process.

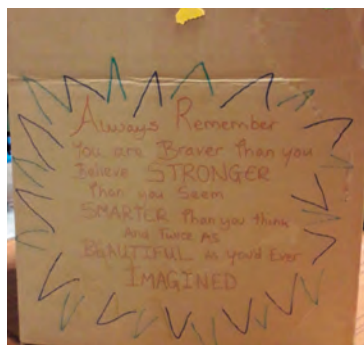
MAY 23

TEAMS at Princess Alexandra Hospital kindly decide to support the Foodbank, encouraging colleagues to donate cans for vulnerable local families. The first 500 are given!



JUNE 1

British Gas deliver food to us for Trussell Trust... two volunteer drivers, Gavin and Andy met up after losing contact 25 years ago by chance on our forecourt!!



JUNE 4

The first of hundreds of boxes inscribed with an uplifting message of support arrives...this one from friends at PAH.



SEPTEMBER 12

2 consignments of eggs arrive from Poundland. In the next 2 days 20,000 eggs were distributed across Harlow Schools, charities, family support, permitted developments!

SEPTEMBER 15/ 16

ITS interactive donate 3,500 Matteson sausages and an anonymous donor drops 1,000 bags of Doritos via our Lok'nStore drop off.



OCTOBER 1

We put out a Facebook request for 200 sanitizers and within 48 hours we had over 3,000.



In a year when many of life's options were not available to us, so many people became mindful of the situation of others less fortunate. We want to thank all those, very many of whom were anonymous, for their acts of thoughtfulness that boosted our activity and blessed the town.

any acts of kindness & solidarity.
everyone!

2020-21

OCTOBER 23

Kelloggs respond to Robert Halfon MP's request to support us after he meets them to discuss child poverty. Andy meets his old friends, the Pop Tarts.



OCTOBER 26

Our Facebook news informing Harlow parents that Free School Meal kids can get support from us is shared 868 times, reaching 57,537 people.



NOVEMBER 4

Rough Creed motorcycle club hold a fundraiser and arrive with 2 car loads of food for us (but the bikes looked so much better for the photo!).



NOVEMBER 24

Food continues to pour into our Store House - this van load of 340 kg came from Lewis Landscapes and their wonderful clients.

DECEMBER 9

SES Group sponsor a Christmas Presents event for us, providing tailor made presents to 57 children from different care settings.



DECEMBER 14

The Land Sherriffs sponsor beautiful Body Shop perfume bags for Mums coming to the Foodbank at Christmas- no one overlooked!



JANUARY 8

Young Adiyat Kabir raises £300 within an hour after a speech at the Harlow Mosque. Adi arrived with 270 kg of food... And more a few weeks later!



FEBRUARY 4

Local book manufacturers Colette and Jonathan Holland from I-read bring a second pile of books for us to redistribute across the town - we have given away thousands!

MARCH 18

Income from government support via the Essex Alliance of Local Authorities keeps coming in, supporting us to buy additional food to top up low stock items and help families.



MARCH 29

Our neighbouring business offers us beautiful boxes of natural cosmetics to pass on to Mums at Bump-to-Five. What a treat!



These snapshots of moments are literally the tip of the iceberg. They do not include the thousands of pounds of donations that came our way. These have enabled us to expand our work bringing relief to those who will struggle financially in the coming years. A million thank yous!



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW



Why the need?

There are now more Foodbanks in the UK than there are McDonald's¹.

This growth has happened in the last 12 years. Why?

Some think that people now use Foodbanks 'because they are there', suggesting there is an illusion of more poverty as Foodbank supply has created demand.

Recent research has debunked that view². Nearly everyone finds it harsh to go to a Foodbank for help when you'd rather afford your own choice of food.

2021 Trussell Trust research³ clearly connects a long-term low rate of benefit support with more widespread hardship.

This relates to how small unemployment benefit levels are, and also the way it is administered.

“ The key design features of the social security system affecting people referred to Foodbanks:

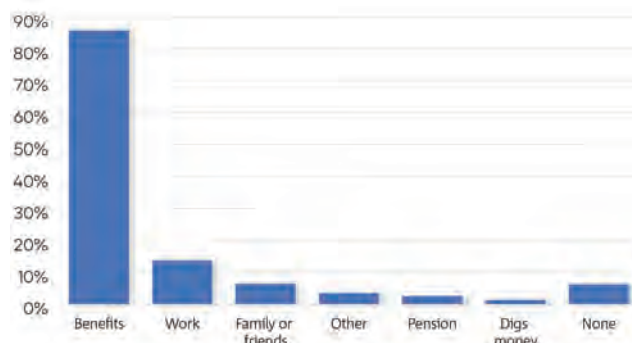
- having to wait five weeks for the first Universal Credit (UC) payment,
- very low rate of UC standard allowance, deductions from UC to repay UC advances and other debts,
- low Local Housing Allowance rates and caps....

Trussell Trust State of Hunger Report 2021 ”

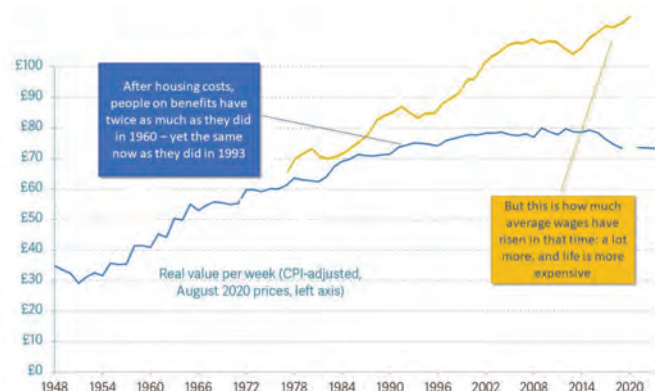
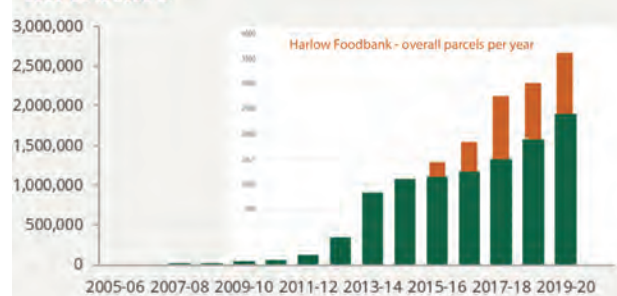
Lets put that into numbers, the situation is shocking...

- The average household in the UK has £2,000 left per month after housing costs.
- The average household fully dependent on benefits has £290, not £2,000⁵.
- The average person coming into a Trussell Trust Foodbank is in a household living on £215 – just over 1/10 of average³.
- 7 / 10 Foodbank recipients had at least one challenging life experience such as relationship breakdown/divorce/job loss/bereavement in the past year³.
- It doesn't take much to go wrong and tip you from poverty into destitution when you are on benefits.

Current Sources of Household income among people referred to Trussell Trust Foodbanks

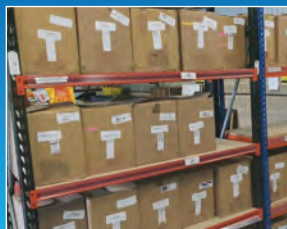


Trussell Trust three-day emergency food supply parcels 2005-06 to 2020-21



This graph above shows how the real value of benefits went up as our standards of living rose, but pretty much levelled off in the 1990s⁴. Compared to others, benefit recipients receive very little. And now, because of COVID many have a drop in income with high outgoings. It's not long to crisis point.

References: 1) House of Commons Library: Statistics 2) Trussell Trust: State of Hunger Report 2019 & 3) 2021, 4) Resolution Foundation: Living Standards Outlook 2021, 5) Institute for Fiscal Studies: Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2020, 6) Essex County Council Countywide Report 2019, 7) Harlow Poverty Partnership.



RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN HARLOW



What does next year look like for Harlow?

If you look at many statistics for Harlow and then compare them to UK the numbers are very similar (see right)

You could say that we are the UK on a small scale (with some exceptions).

That means that what affects the country will probably happen similarly here.



UK / Harlow Predictions for 2021 –22

UK unemployment is predicted to rise by 900,000 - so in Harlow around 1,152 (approx. 30% more than before COVID).

If the £20 uplift in Universal Credit is taken away 1,546 more of our 88,500 population will go into poverty.

512 of them will be children: increasing Harlow child poverty rate from 1 in 5 to 1 in 4.

This level is predicted to rise over the course of the current parliament.

Meanwhile Council rental and tax levels are expected to rise 2 -5 %.

Issue	Harlow %6	UK %6
Aged 0-15	22.4	19.2
Aged 16 - 64	62.2	62.6
Aged 65+	15.3	18.2
White British	84	80
White non-British	5.2	5.7
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic	2.1	2.3
Asian British	4.6	7.8
Black British	3.8	3.5
Other ethnic groups	0.5	1
One Person household	30.6	30.2
One person 65+	13.4	12.4
One family 2 parent household	32	33
One family Lone parent	13.1	10.6
Households solely aged 65+	20	21
Learning disability	2.36	2.36
Free School Meal eligibility	12.6	13.3
Child Tax Credit receipt	16.6	16.6
Early Years Good Level Develpt	72	71.5
GCSE Ave Attainment 8 score	42.8	44.5
Obesity	32.8	31.9
Smoker	14.8	14.9
Alcohol related hospital adm	2.36	2.22
Drug related deaths	0.0055	0.0043
Under 20 conceptions	16.2	13.5
Out of work benefit claimants	3.5	2.6
Child poverty rate: relative	19	19
Child poverty rate: absolute	15	16
Households using Foodbanks	5	5

These are worrying trends - for many it will feel like the pandemic is over - for others the economic impact will be long and painful. Already the support agencies in Harlow are reporting many people reaching financial crisis for the first time in their lives⁷.

How might you help?

- Please get behind Trussell Trust's request to contact your MP and ask that the £20 uplift on Universal Credit (a gamechanger for millions during COVID) can be retained after September 2021.
- Recognise that the COVID crisis isn't over for thousands who rely on our support—and PLEASE keep giving food to the Foodbank!
- Tell people about our new project, Bump-to-Five! It will offer essential items to parents of young children—working in partnership with Harlow agencies and bringing further support to those who might need help for a while.
- Follow our new 2-year project interviewing users of our services, hearing their stories of reaching crisis point. We will highlight how best to understand and intervene with those at risk from financial crisis.
- Pray for / cheer on the Harlow Poverty Partnership—helping all agencies to share their information, work together, innovate and destigmatise poverty. The sooner people access help and address any mounting problem, the better.



NEW PROJECT / THE STORE HOUSE



Baby & Toddler Bank



For years MRCT has been planning to expand our range of services to the town by providing the baby/toddler equivalent of a Foodbank. Items for children will be collected, sorted, stored and redistributed to parents who otherwise might find it difficult to afford them.

In January 2021 we kicked this off with an in depth consultation of all of the services who help parents of young children. The message was very clear: unanimous support and belief that MRCT were the right people to lead on this.

Our respondents advised us that there is also a need for more social support, not just items like clothes, nappies or pushchairs.

We have pushed ahead with a plan, testing out the full scope as we go along. We have been hugely blessed with support from HTS who have given us space in their premises to store items before packing them to go out.

We will launch the project for donations in July, and then invite our partner agencies to start writing vouchers for their clients in September.

We now have our Project Manager in place (Fernanda) and we will plot the next level of service in close consultation with those who support parents in need. We are so thrilled to get this project going!!



“ Kind, warm, approachable – carry on with the way the foodbank is doing it.

...follow the foodbank's lead, as it already operates with great levels of empathy and is non-judgmental.

”



Lighten the load



Our Store House in Matching Tye is the beating heart of our operations. Last year we told of how this barn was transformed by an unbelievably generous donation of Lawsons Builders to us, creating our offices on the mezzanine floor and upscaling our capacity hugely.

Without it we could have never tackled the demands of the pandemic.

However... about half way through the year we noticed that the mezzanine really wasn't built to handle the tonnage we were taking in: the upper floor was buckling under the strain.

We had to quickly lighten the load! Harlow Council helped us find an overflow storage space at HTS, and later the Trussell Trust funded another at Lok'nStore. Then Wincanton, Edinburgh Way offered us free space and the Land Sherriff's free use of a van to move everything.

Then... wonder of wonders, Lawsons our sponsoring building firm gave us all the steel we needed to replace the current beams. This breathtakingly generous offer has future-proofed our operations and as we go to press with this report the whole place is now done: 10 times stronger and ready for anything! Hallelujah!!





MRCT STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Gary



David



Margaret

Head Office

Andy Thornton— Chief Executive Officer, Company Secretary (commenced Sept 2020)

David Evans – Director of Community Services

Margaret O'Donovan – Director of Operations



Belinda



Patrick



Trevor

Harlow Foodbank

Belinda Glanfield – Manager, St Paul's Satellite

Adrian Smith—Assistant Manager (Bank), St Paul's Satellite

Store House

Patrick Coppeard – Store House Manage

Bounty Club

Trevor Stanesby – Bounty Club Coordinator



Clair



Suzie



Karolina

Maybury Open Door

Clair Forway – Community Worker

Suzie Raraty – Community Worker

Karolina Sadowska – Community Worker

Michael Raven – Assistant Community Worker

Liz Bellworthy – Bank Worker

Moira Luff – Bank Worker



Michael



Liz



Moira

Bump-to-Five

Fernanda Champness —Bump to Five Project Manager

MRCT Trustees

Jeanette Ehlers (Chair)

Pat Balkwill

Gary Pattimore

David Norkett

Teresa Knott (Co-Founder and Trustee)



Fernanda

Honorary

Robert Carrington – Honorary Treasurer

MRCT achieves so much because of our amazing volunteers! We have ten times more volunteers than staff. In the past year our volunteers have been extra-flexible: some have had to shield and others have doubled the amount of time they could offer. We can't thank them enough!!

Our volunteers help with all the projects that you have read about, and we are always looking for more as we expand.

From sorting food or baby's items to picking up, working at Maybury, helping with a Supermarket day for a few hours every 6 months to being involved in a project or campaign group, there are so many ways to help us help others!



Check out the new volunteers page on our web site for full details of how, where and when you might get involved! mrct.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteer/



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This report has catalogued so many exceptional partnerships and donations that characterised the past year. We could never have been ready for any of these if it were not for many years of strong community relations, giving us the capacity to respond to people in and around Harlow. Many of the partnerships below have been the mainstay of years of our work and we want to thank them hugely for maintaining this in 20 - 21.



The Bounty Club operates a refrigerated van picking up three days a week from food wholesalers in order to get fresh food to individuals and organisations who support communities in need. This also enables us to give fresh food to recipients at our Foodbank. Picking up this food also avoids thousands of kgs of fresh food going to landfills every year, redirecting it to those who otherwise could not afford it.



Bidfood provide a wide variety of surplus, short dated, soft drinks and fresh food for us to redistribute across the town. Through doing this they help schools, disadvantaged people and local agencies.



Brakes provide a wide range of surplus, short dated fresh food and meat, allowing us to access their stock and choose what we can distribute to partners, schools, individuals and the Foodbank.



Harlow Foodbank stops people going hungry by acting as a resource for frontline professionals who are supporting people in need across the town. Over 200 professionals and organisations can write vouchers which authorise their clients to pick up enough food for at least four days. Individuals can also ask the Foodbank for help, and they will always be helped and at the same time referred to a supportive agency to address the causes of their lack of money for food.



St. Paul's Church in the town centre hosts our foodbank for four days a week. We thank them for their huge support for us and for the people of Harlow. They are true allies and show constant flexibility and cooperation in our mission. Thanks so much!



The Salvation Army in Harlow our second wonderful delivery partner. They operate the Foodbank on the day that Saint Paul's church is not open, deploying their team member and resources as true partners in our mission to support those in need. We are so grateful to them!



UK Salads have provided an assortment of fresh salad items each week which we can then distribute to clients at the foodbank. their consistent support has helped thousands this year.



High Trees Packers' consistent generosity has enabled us to provide a supply of fresh potatoes through the Foodbank year on year. This is a hugely valuable resource to people in need.



Greenways Eggs continue to provide our Foodbank in Harlow town centre with a supply of fresh eggs each week which helps to complement the range of non-perishable food we give to all our Foodbank referrals. Thanks again to Jenny Fish for her great support.



Special thanks again to Tesco's who have not only allowed us to pick up a huge amount of food from all the supermarkets around the town but they also top up the amount given by donors in the store with a further 20% of financial contribution to help without running costs. They, and their customers have been phenomenal this year.



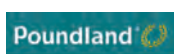
Thanks too to Sainsbury's for faithfully providing a place for their customers to contribute donations of food to our Foodbank, day in and day out. Thanks for keeping them safe when they overflowed many times this year!



Many thanks to Asda in the water gardens for such warm cooperation in providing a receptacle for donations from their customers. Again, this year these overflowed and fresh ones were provided when full.



Lok'nStore have supported our work since we opened in 2009 come up currently providing a drop off point for food donations throughout the year. This has been a consistent and fantastic resource, thanks so much!



Poundland have been an invaluable community partner since 2017. Providing a wide range of non-perishable foods, toiletries, household items, sweets and drinks, these add important extras to local people in crisis. Not to mention 21,000 eggs!



SES Group provided a hugely generous party for Harlow children who might not have had a present last Christmas. We acted as a go-between with local agencies who knew who they might be, and the staff team at SAS group went chose, bought, wrapped and gave out presents (and more) at a special event.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Land Sherriff's approached us at Christmas to support families in need. They ended up buying beautiful Body Shop cosmetic gifts for mums (often the most overlooked) who came to the Foodbank. This was a very thoughtful treat... they also lend us their big vans for special occasions! Thanks so much!



Thanks to iRead books for donating thousands of childrens, puzzle and colouring in books as bonus items for the FoodBank and also to other agencies we partner with across the town.



Maybury Open Door operates their drop in in two centres across the town. We thanks our hosts St Paul's and Harefield Churches who so warmly and committedly partner with us to provide this enduring safe space for attendees.



Based on the edge of town, the store house hosts our offices as well as a copious two storey storage space for food and other items that are donated to us.



We cannot thank our partners, Lawson's builders, enough for sponsoring our vans, for renovating our store house by installing office spaces for the whole organisation, and this year by donating 72 steel girders that now underpin the 1st floor making it strong enough for the kind of quantities of food we are now storing and redistributing. Lawson's have given us a free van and forklift and service the forklift for us. This family-run business exemplify generosity and social responsibility and have inconspicuously changed so many lives in our town.



HTS saved our skin this year by offering us overflow space for our stock when the storehouse got full. They have continued to be supportive this year by allowing us to keep using that space as the store for children's items that will be given out in the bump to five project. Their flexibility has been fantastic and enabled us to grow our services to the town.



Thanks too to Wincanton distribution centre for offering us free shelf space for our food when we were otherwise full at the Store House!



We are deeply grateful to Harlow Council and also to the Mulberry Trust for underpinning the costs of running the store house.



We would like to thank Bristol Street Motors who diligently support us by offering free services and cost price repairs to our fleet of 3 vans. They keep us on the road!



The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust is the parent organisation that runs the projects operated above. Founded in 1998 by Teresa and Gary Knott, the Trust has flexibility to respond to a wide range of needs in Harlow and the surrounding areas.



We would like to thank the Trussell Trust, our associates in running the Foodbank. The Trussell trust runs a national network of Foodbanks offering guidance through regional staff, materials, partnerships, data management, additional grants, networking, statistical analysis, national campaigning advice and solidarity.



We want to thank our colleagues at the Bishop Stortford Foodbank for our ongoing close working partnership. This allows us both to get the best out of working in neighbouring towns, sharing ideas and resources to the full.



We would like to thank all organisations in Harlow who partner with us by referring those in need to the Foodbank. These partnerships go much deeper than writing vouchers: we are in constant touch with frontline staff who advise us on the best way to respond and collaborate in addressing the needs of those facing poverty in Harlow.

In particular we would like to thank Rainbow Services, Harlow's central support charity for the other charities and agencies in the town. We thank them and Harlow Council for the amazing response they facilitated to the coronavirus through the Community Hub.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



All Churches Hope Beyond Fund (funding support)
 ASDA (food collection point)
 Bidfood, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bishop's Stortford Foodbank (foodbank partner)
 Brakes, Harlow (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Bristol Street Motors (van servicing and repair)
 Burnt Mill Academy (student supermarket collections)
 CAF Resilience Fund (funding support)
 Church and School partners (general and harvest food donations)
 Church Langley Church (funding partner)
 Church of Holy innocents, High Beach (funding partner)
 Country Food Trust (high protein game food pouches)
 Create Identitee (MRCT clothing)
 Essex Alliance of Local Councils (funding support)
 Essex Community Foundation (funding support)
 Free Cakes for Kids (celebration cakes for foodbank client's children)
 Freshwaters Church (funding partner)
 From a Mother to Another (children's clothing donations)
 Front-Line Professional Agencies (community partners)
 Gateway Freedom Church (funding partner)
 Greenways Eggs (egg donations)
 Halifax (foodbank delivery point and cash collection boxes)
 Harefield Church, Harlow (free use of building)
 Harlow Council (Store House funding support)
 Harlow Health Centres Trust (funding support)
 Heart4Harlow (community partner)
 High Beach Church, Epping Forest (regular funding partner)
 High Trees Packers (potato donations)
 HTS Group, Harlow (storage space and waste disposal)
 Land Sherriff's (Christmas gifts for mums)

Lawsons (Whetstone) Ltd (vehicle and equipment donations, office rebuild)
 Local Giving Foundation Community Match Challenge (funding support)
 LoknStore (foodbank delivery point)
 Mayfield Farm Bakery (bread and rolls donations)
 Mulberry Trust, Harlow (significant funding support)
 Passmores Academy (student supermarket collections)
 Poundland Distribution Centre Harlow (food, toiletry and household donations)
 Rainbow Services (community partner)
 Robert Halfon MP
 Rodect Pest Control (pest control partner)
 Rotary Club of Harlow Tye (funding support)
 Sainsbury's, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)
 Salvation Army, Harlow (foodbank satellite centre on Wednesdays)
 Santander (foodbank delivery point)
 SES Group (Christmas gifts for children)
 Sobell Charitable Trust (funding partner)
 St Paul's Church, Harlow (discounted use of building)
 Stansted Airport (London) (food, toiletry and gift donations)
 Stuart & Kathryn Tinney, Housham Hall Farm (landlords)
 Swithenbank, Hoddesdon (surplus fresh food supplies)
 Tesco, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point and cash top-up)
 Trussell Trust Foodbank Network (foodbank partner)
 UK Salads (salad donations)
 Waitrose, Bishop's Stortford (foodbank collection point)



Michael Roberts Charitable Trust

Store House, Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm, Harlow Road,
 Matching Tye, Harlow CM17 OPB
 Tel: 01279 724515 Email: enquiries@mrct.org.uk

www.mrct.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1065006
 Registered Company No: 3439299

