

# LEICESTER FOOD BANK PLUS



## TWO-YEAR PROJECT SUMMARY (APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2021)

### A BIG LOTTERY FUNDED PILOT PROJECT DELIVERED BY REACHING PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FEEDING BRITAIN

#### PROJECT AIM:

To ensure that people accessing emergency food services have on-site access to quality information, advice and case advocacy to support them to tackle the issues that made the vulnerable to hunger.

#### KEY OUTCOMES:

- **469** households supported
- Total increase in clients' annual income of **£246,620 PLUS:**
- Benefit sanctions and other decisions overturned
- Social housing applications and allocations
- Grant awards
- Equipment/adaptations assessment and provision
- School applications and admissions
- And much more...

£ Clients' annual income increased by **£246,620**

#### KEY FINDINGS:

- Over 60% of clients reported health issues that contributed to financial hardship
- Clients had previously experienced multiple barriers to accessing support, particularly digital access and skills, and lack of community-based support
- Relationship-based support delivered in local foodbanks where clients first went to seek support access information, advice and support that enables them to resolve long-standing, complex issues

Number of clients with physical and mental health issues

**> 60%**

An icon representing 10 people, with 7 people highlighted in a darker blue to indicate that more than 60% of the total group have health issues.

# HOW LEICESTER FOOD BANK PLUS IS DELIVERED

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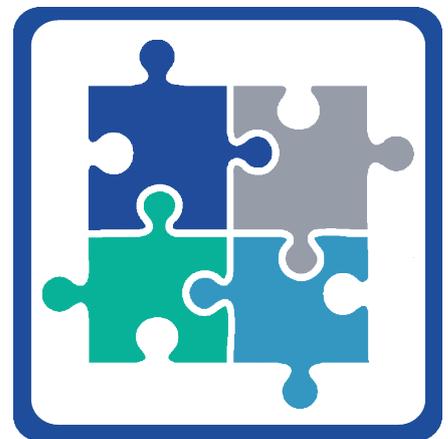
We begin all client support with a comprehensive and holistic assessment to enable the accurate identification and prioritisation of appropriate next steps. We then provide ongoing advice, support, and case advocacy as appropriate to enable the client to resolve their issues, maximise their income, and move to a position of greater financial resilience. This holistic, relationship-based approach, combined with practical support with tasks such as form filling and online applications, has proved effective in maintaining client engagement throughout the resolution of what are frequently complex and long-standing issues.

## MAIN ADVICE AREAS:

- Welfare benefits
- Housing problems
- Issues relating to physical and mental health
- Employment
- Money management and debt
- Supported referral to specialist advice as required

## WEEKLY ADVICE SESSIONS PROVIDED AT:

- B-Inspired's Braunstone Foodshare
- Christ the King Foodbank or E2 Food Hub
- Mosaic Foodbank
- The Emerald Centre
- Or through remote support during Covid-19 lockdown restrictions



## SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR LEICESTER FOODBANK PLUS?

We are currently receiving ongoing funding from Feeding Britain throughout 2021 that will enable us to continue this vital work whilst further long-term funding is sought.

If you want to find out more about Leicester Food Bank Plus, please email Mary Collier at [mary@reachingpeople.co.uk](mailto:mary@reachingpeople.co.uk)

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