

Annual Report 2017 and 2018

*“Helping you feed our hungry
neighbours”*



OUR OBJECTIVES VALUES AND AIMS OF THE CHARITY.

Our Objectives are:

To relieve persons in central Bedfordshire and the surrounding area that are in poverty or financial hardship in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, in particular, but not exclusively by:

1. Providing food packages to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation.
2. Providing other items to meet immediate and essential needs, as resources allow.
3. Developing other forms of support to meet immediate need and alleviate financial hardship.

To achieve these objects The Need Project has the following:

Our Values are:

We are a Christian organisation motivated by Jesus' teaching on poverty and injustice. We operate according to Christian principles of compassion, honesty, integrity, openness, kindness and care of all people, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs (or none). We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to what we do. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future.

Our Aims are:

The Trustees employ a number of strategies to assist The Need Project to alleviate poverty or financial hardship and meet its Objectives by:

- Providing free food parcels, and when resources allow furniture and clothing, for adults and families experiencing financial crisis.

- By providing food and other essentials to families and individuals referred to the charity by recognised social work agencies, local authorities, community bodies, churches, charities or other organisations whose purpose includes the prevention or relief of poverty ('referral agencies').
- Developing effective relationships with local councils (County, unitary, parish and town), referral agencies, faith groups and community groups.
- Ensuring wide community participation in the charity's projects through giving and raising awareness.
- Developing a culture of lifelong learning throughout the organisation to allow the trustees, core staff and volunteers to do their allotted jobs effectively.
- Building strong links with the local media, and regularly updating the charity's website to stimulate public awareness of the charity's work and the issues facing people in poverty and distress.
- Setting up social enterprises which add value to the charity's existing projects by generating surpluses.
- Identifying, evaluating and incorporating best practice in project templates to ensure that projects become self-sustaining and are easy to replicate.
- Working closely with churches to help the Christian faith community to take a more active, practical and effective role in social action.
- Providing educational support to enable those referred to become more self-sufficient where it is appropriate, and resources allow.

"OUR" KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We have summarised below the outputs, outcomes, impacts and benefits of the work of the Need Project, but as Christian Charity it is our conviction that the Lord has done His work of meeting peoples' needs through our labours.

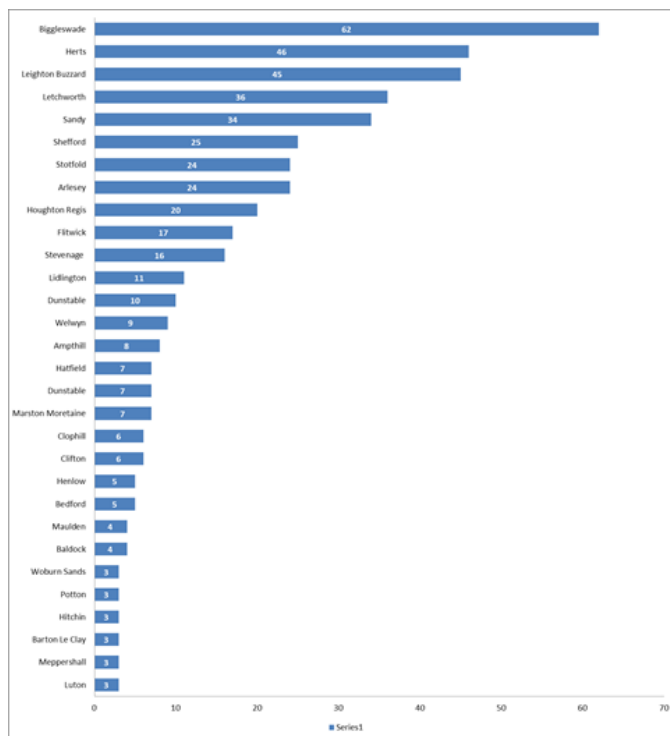
WHAT WE HAVE DONE

These are the key outputs from our work, covering Christmas 2017, and our work through the year excluding Christmas

Christmas 2017

Two “hubs” packed and distributed Christmas Hampers, and the area of distribution covered over twenty-seven towns across Central Bedfordshire and parts of Hertfordshire

	2017	2016	Increase
Total Families	487	401	21%
Total Adults	705	616	14%
Total Children	760	663	15%
Est. Parcel Value	£ 60.00	£ 60.00	
Cost	£29,220.00	£24,060.00	21%
Stotfold Hub			
Total Families	376	289	30%
Total Adults	541	457	18%
Total Children	571	451	27%
Flitwick Hub			
Total Families	111	111	0%
Total Adults	164	159	3%
Total Children	189	212	-11%

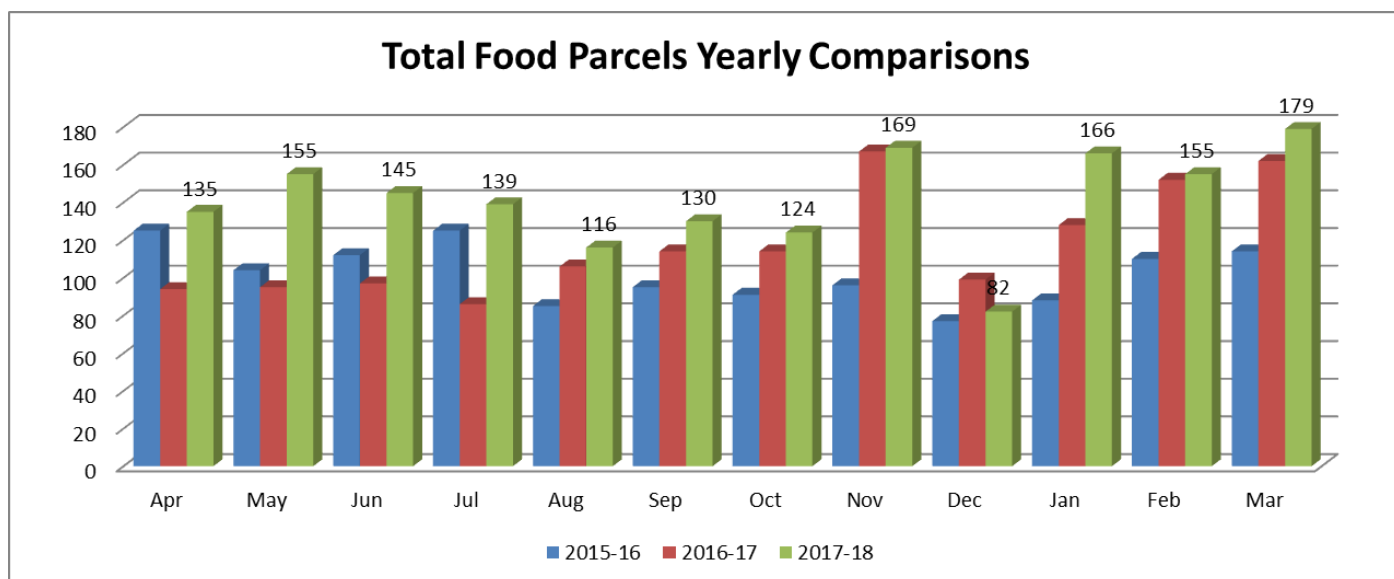


Overall a 21% increase in the work of project is shown

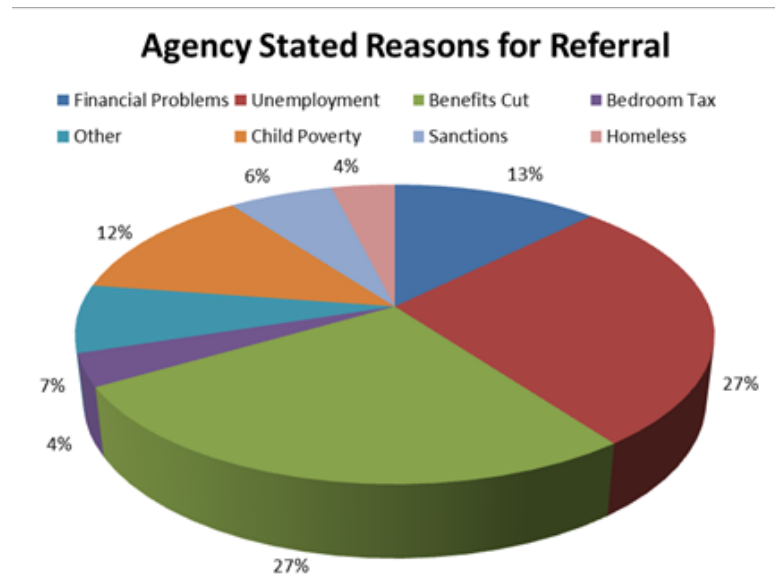
Our “Normal” Work Over the Year

April 2017 to March 2018 (Excluding Christmas 2017)

Food Statistics showing *the growing need* for the services of the Project



Hubs Summary	Total to Date	Monthly Average
Flitwick	253	21
Sandy	240	20
Stotfold	434	36
Shefford	277	23
Biggleswade	185	15
Marston	54	5
Out of Area	303	25
	1746	



Furniture, Furnishings and White Goods Statistics:

Items	Totals
White Goods	29
Beds, single, double, bunk	81
Bedroom Furniture, Furnishings	37
Lounge Furniture, Furnishings	60
Misc &, Baby Equipment	48
Bedding	69
Estimated Value	£14,597.00

Actual Items Includes	Totals
Cookers	3
Fridges/ Freezers	12
Suites/Sofas	19
Washing Machines	12
Microwaves	2
TV's DVD Players	11

Our analysis indicates that the impact of the welfare system changes being rolled out including Universal Credit, is contributing to increasing the demand for our services

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

A New Home

As part of our vision to share Christian love in action with our hungry neighbours our main goal for this year was to establish a central “hub” on the high street of Stotfold. The Lord answered our prayer and provided an excellent venue, which went “live” this year.



GDPR Compliance

For our work in serving people “confidentiality is king” and this has and is a watch word of ours. To ensure the project was fully compliant before the new GDPR regulations were in force, we developed policies and procedures and rolled out training to all our staff and volunteers that exceeds the requirements of the GDPR regulations.

In summary these are the steps we have taken:

1. We have encrypted our data storage system with restricted access held by our administrator and the chair of trustees.
2. We have established an encrypted referrals process, which also requires the referring agency to obtain confirmation from the client to use their data for the specified purpose of providing them with food.
3. We have appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) and a direct email contact for our DPO
4. We have registered the Need Project with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), our registration number is ZA 377695
5. We have rolled out GDPR training to all our Trustees, Staff and Volunteers

Safeguarding Policy

To ensure we maintain compliance with current legislation our Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and revised in January 2018.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

Thank you

"I have just cooked our last meal, when you arrived"

"We had no food in the house for the weekend"

The Project Leader's Report

It never ceases to amaze me how we always seem to keep up with demand for our ministry in our local community.

Our workload shows that we have got busier and busier and although we have increasing demands for food the Lord always provides so through Him the needs of others are met.

The support we have had throughout Central Beds and beyond has been wonderful, be it by prayer, money or food donations.

The project has always and will always be a servant ministry as we give out. It is a blessing for us to serve our neighbour in their hour of need. Feeding people brings people together and shows love at its simplest.

I know everyone who serves on the Project has been blessed, challenged, moved and sometimes even frustrated by what we see and encounter nearly every day. But this surely how our Lord feels but he still chooses to love us unconditionally so how can we make judgements on others?

What about the future?

Well let's deal with the past first.

We have fed lots of people with lots of food. We have provided lots of furniture and baby items. But that is done, and we can only praise God for getting us through last year.

We look forward with natural trepidation as we think of the enormity of the work before us. It is truly scary!

Approximately £8000.00 worth of food donated a month and rising is going out to our hungry neighbours. And an average of £1800.00 worth per month on furniture.

In December of last year, we distributed around £27,000 worth of food and presents.

This year, as we analyse our monthly report, we expect to be busier than previous years.

As we stay focused on Jesus and let him lead us then he will not fail to supply all we need to do all He calls us to do for Him.

We know the Lord has a plan and through prayer and supplication we can be part of it as we continue to serve Jesus in his most distressing disguise.

Praise God always,

Gordon Hamilton

TREASURERS REPORT

THE NEED PROJECT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS UP TO 31/03/2018

	INCOME
	£
Donations from Churches	£ 8,975.00
Grants from Trusts	£ 26,315.99
Donations from individuals	£ 9,487.51
Fund raising income	£ 2,015.47
Misc. Donations	£ 5,265.95
MyDonate	£ 3,401.28
HMRC Gift Aid recovery	£ 2,739.02
TOTAL INCOME	£ 58,200.22

	EXPENDITURE
	£
Payroll	£ 29,199.91
Van	£ 4,839.33
Fuel	£ 3,387.74
Food	£ 1,942.70
Insurance	£ 684.08
Stotfold Centre	£ 2,000.00
Stotfold Centre Set Up Costs	£ 5,421.28
Miscellaneous items	£ 657.34
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 48,132.38

CHANGE IN RESERVES	£ 10,067.84
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BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	£ 13,933.95
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Results of the Independent Examiner

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire set out relating to the year ending 31st March 2018.

This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts.

I can confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act.

I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a more detailed understanding of the accounts.

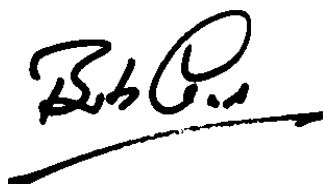
Mrs G Roberts

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We are exploring the following items to help us meet the growing demand on the project:

- Succession planning: we would like to appoint an assistant project leader to work alongside Gordon Hamilton.
- Improving our fund-raising strategy and focus
- Expanding the use of the Hub Central to raise awareness of the project
- Establish relationships with other churches across Central Beds to set up more distribution hubs
- Broaden the referral agencies who want to use our services

On behalf of the Trustees of the Need Project Central Beds

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Cain', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Bob Cain

Chair of Trustees