

## Chair's Report – Morecambe Bay Foodbank, 2018

2018 has been a busy and successful year for Morecambe Bay Foodbank in terms of the operation of our activities, fundraising, publicity, donations and support within our community and elsewhere.

It is, however, a tragedy in human terms that demand for our service continues to rise unabated, essentially due to a punitive welfare regime that treats the poor, unemployed and disabled at times with inhumane cruelty. Universal credit and problems with disability payments continue to be key reasons why people find themselves in crisis and in need of our help.

As Chair of Trustees I am sometimes horrified and saddened at the work that we have to do, because to acknowledge that we provided over 7,000 food parcels in 2018 to people who don't have enough to eat, is shocking.

On the positive side, it is amazing that we continued to be supported by the good people of Lancaster and Morecambe who donate incredible amounts of food, money and time to the Foodbank and we thank everyone who helps us heartily. You will see from our financial figures that our donations have been very generous this year, enabling us to increase and sustain the scale of our operation.

We have established the Uniform Project this year and this project will now evolve and grow over 2019 so that we can provide assistance to children who need it in the area.

Our Food donations have remained consistent and were very high in November and December especially thanks in part to a brilliant campaign by the travelling community, to whom we are very thankful. Christmas saw huge amounts of food donated to us in both 2017 and 2018, enabling us to provide Christmas parcels to hundreds of families.

Annette, our founder, has now been confirmed in post as a paid Foodbank Manager on a permanent basis and our thanks and gratitude go to her for her determined, dedicated hard work to keep us all organised and the Foodbank running smoothly. It is testament to her talents that she was awarded the Guardian Newspaper's Public Servant of the Year Award in November 2018 and on behalf of the trustees we congratulate her on this impressive achievement.

Our volunteers are simply amazing, and we couldn't do what we do without their dedication and hard work. The trustees and I are so grateful for every hour that is given to us by an extraordinary team of individuals who come together to create something very special - kindness, and non judgemental help to those who need it when they come to the Foodbank as well as a back breaking amount of lifting, shifting, dating, sorting, stacking and packing.

Thanks also go to our partners, voucher holders and schools including the team at Citizens Advice who work with us week in and week out to ensure that people who need it can get a voucher. The sensitive way that our voucher partners hand out vouchers and spot those in need is amazing and we are truly grateful for all who hold vouchers for the Foodbank.

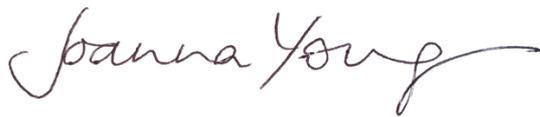
As always huge thanks go to the supermarkets who allow us to collect food - we couldn't run this operation without the generous support of Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Greggs, Bookers, Speights and Morrisons. Thank you.

To our donors and helpers - whether it's lending us space, offering us a van, helping to fix the lift or giving us a boost with a press release, thank you. We are helped in so many ways

by so many people in this community who give things to us when we need them most! Fundraisers by various people have raised crucial funds for us this year, and thanks also go to Father Michael and his team at St Barnabas Church where our Foodbank is based for their ongoing support.

To my fellow trustees who offer wise counsel, warmth, support, time, marvellous accounting and talent to this operation, thank you.

Finally, we very much hope that our numbers will abate. This, sadly, will be down to government policy. As part of the Trussell Trust we campaign to get social policy changed so that the poorest and most vulnerable in our society are not left without enough to eat. We will continue to campaign in this way until we no longer have a queue stretching out of our door twice a week. In fact, we very much look forward to the day when no one needs to use a Foodbank. Let's hope that change begins soon.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna Young". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joanna Young

Chair of Trustees 23rd January 2019