

## Stonehaven Community Council

### Review of local food banks: Far and Wide

<https://www.facebook.com/Far-Wide-104784214496026/>

(Discussion with Barbara Maclean, Manager)

Based at the Far and Wide shop on Evan St/Ann St. (tel. 01569 766272). Far and Wide is a part of Fetteresso Church charity. Proceeds from the shop are used to finance Christian projects abroad and to meet social needs in the UK and locally. The shop has been running for 28 years. The Food Bank has been running for around 20 years

The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. At present they are using also the old Dunnottar Wine and Spirits shop which they are renting until the end of January 2021.

Parcels are distributed to 32 families each week (has been as high as 40) on Mondays and Tuesdays. Occasionally one-off parcels are provided also.

The majority of referrals are from Aberdeenshire Social Work dept.

- Often for clients who have just moved into the area
- Or otherwise have delays in receiving benefits (exacerbated by Universal Credit)
- Referrals come also from the Coronavirus Hub and Citizens Advice.

There has been a very big increase in demand since March 2020 which is probably due to job seekers unable to find work during the pandemic health crisis.

The estimated value of each parcel is £25 - £30.

They include some toiletries as well as food.

They maintain a profile for the regular clients to take account of some specific requirements such as food allergies.

They require to buy bread and milk and also some other products to replenish their stock each week. They spend a bit more than £100 per week at Farmfoods.

There are 2 volunteers on Monday and 3 on Tuesday working on food bank duties.

Each spends around 1 or 2 hours per week on Food Bank related work.

They have 3 drivers at present. During the previous lockdown from March onwards they had 6 drivers.

They accept food donations from any members of the public on Fridays, 10:30 until 12 noon at the shop. Food donations are left for 72 hours as a precaution during the pandemic. They also receive some money donations.

Collections of food (non-perishable) take place on Sundays at Fetteresso Church. In the past they have received from other locations also e.g. St James. All items are deposited in the store .

They have received help to collect donations including money from The Lions, Rotary Club, local allotments, Catterline School and Dunnottar School, as well as many individuals.

They have received support from

- Christians Against Poverty
- Church of the Redeemed

They received a considerable donation (£2,100) through Kincardine Development Partnership following a recent application.

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### Review of local food banks: Catalyst Vineyard Church

<http://catalystvineyard.church/>

(Contact: Chris Martin, tel. 0798 309 0515, email transform.stonehaven@catalyst.vin)

They are based in Catalyst Vineyard Church, Aberdeen. They also have premises in Inverurie, Laurencekirk and Ellon.

They were located at the Scout Hall in Mill of Forrest Road from March until September 2020, and previously they had been based in the Mackie Academy on Sunday mornings. Now they are working out of the car park at the Community Centre in Robert Street. Longer term they will need to move out of the Community Centre.

This is a delivery only service, although they could envisage providing a collection service in future.

Typically clients contact them directly; there are some referrals also from Citizens Advice or concerned neighbours. They have between 40 and 50 Stonehaven residents on their distribution list although they don't all get parcels every week. This compare with between 10 and 15 in previous years. They distributed around 6 times as much food parcels between March and June 2020 compare to the previous few years. They distribute around 30 parcels per week in the Stonehaven, Newtonhill and Portlethen areas. There is quite a high proportion of returning clients and it's also not unusual for some clients to stop receiving food parcels for a period of time only to return again. They reckon they could double the present level of provision.

Most food distributed is non-perishable and comes from donations. Some other items such as toothpaste and toilet roll are also included.

Estimated value per parcel is £10 to £15 for a single person and £20 per couple.

They don't incur much expense e.g. they have use of the Community Centre rent-free.

There are around 12 volunteers involved at various times e.g. they have 2 teams of 2 making up parcels, 3 delivery drivers on a Monday afternoon (Rotary Club) & 2 delivery drivers on a Thursday evening (Church members). Estimate around 20 volunteer hours worked in total.

They take donations on Monday between 2 pm and 4 pm and Thursdays between 6 pm and 8 pm.

They do receive some cash donations also mainly through fundraising initiatives.

They publicise the service by issuing flyers, for example they distributed around 2000 leaflets in the Brickfield area in June.

They get great support from the Lions and the Round Table as well as the Rotary Club who do a delivery run each Monday.

They have received £1,000 funding from Aberdeenshire (thanks to help from STP). They have received some donation (around £300?) from the Stonehaven Arts Group who exhibit at the Stonehaven Medical Centre. They also receive a regular delivery of food provisions from CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East)

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### Review of local food banks: The Haven Community Larder (The Haven Social Enterprise)

<https://www.thehaven.co.uk/community-larder/>

(Contact: Julia Morton (Director) 07473 388198, Kate Latham (Development Manager) 07967 200893, email: havenstonehaven@gmail.com)

The Larder was launched after the shutdown in March 2020 when an opportunity arose to re-use the premises and staff who had been working in The Haven yoga studio. They have since moved premises and are now based in Stonehaven Community Centre.

They operate as a social enterprise (not for profit company limited by guarantee) with a mix of paid employees and volunteers.

Their objectives are

- to address the rising levels of food insecurity in the community,
- to provide volunteer opportunities and
- to better utilise existing resources for community benefit.

The Haven Community Larder is not a food bank. In order to reduce food poverty stigma and to reduce food waste they adopted the principle of a “swap shop” whereby people leave what they don’t need and take away something they can use instead. They reckon around 1/3 of clients are donating mainly and 2/3 are mainly collecting.

They do some delivery but mostly they operate as a community larder to reduce food waste, working in partnership with the three local Coops. They stock personal hygiene and household cleaning products as well as food. As well as food donations they buy in some dairy products.

They operate a staggered system of opening hours to provide maximum opportunity for anyone to call in regardless of working hours:

Monday, 10am to 12 noon  
Tuesday, 12 noon until 2pm  
Thursday, 2 pm until 4 pm  
Friday, 5 pm until 7 pm  
Saturday, 10am to 12 noon

They intend to open on Wednesdays also once they have asked the local community what hours would be most convenient.

Their customers come from a wide demographic from young families to the elderly.

They do not issue standard food parcels; customers can select what they require from all the produce available. During December there were 610 visits, and they delivered 44 parcels, supported by 52 volunteers.

Those working in The Larder are generally part-time paid employees rather than volunteers. There are currently 52 active volunteers. 25 work weekly in the larder, each shift consisting of one shift leader and two volunteers. In addition there are some volunteers in particular specialisms such as Environment Health. There are 8 board members / advisors.

They publish a weekly wish list on Facebook on Mondays.

They work in partnership with the Coop FoodShare program and collect daily (apart from Wednesday) from David St, Market Square and Kirkton Coops.

They have a working partnership with CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East) through their period poverty project with the Scottish Government and they also received 2 tonnes of food through the FairShare program. However this funding has now run out.

Their operational costs include rent, utilities, staff, training, insurance, stationary, equipment and posters. They have calculated that, as an organisation, each visit to the The Haven Community Larder costs £7. On average they see 600 visits per month.

They have received funding from a wide range of sources including KDP (Kincardine Development Partnership), and Aberdeenshire Council. No information available about the value of donations received from those sources. They raised a further £31,000 in November 2020 through crowdfunding.

Future is somewhat uncertain: as Julia has put it “we are working in a fluid, dynamic situation trying to respond to community needs as best we can”.

They hope to create more employment and volunteering opportunities especially for young people. They have signed up for the Government Kickstart scheme to give opportunities to young people on benefits.

## References

Community Food Initiatives NE

<https://www.cfine.org/>

Aberdeenshire Council Community Food Fund

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/funding/community-food-fund/>

Scottish Government Food Fund

[https://www.sustainweb.org/coronavirus/scottish\\_government\\_food\\_fund/](https://www.sustainweb.org/coronavirus/scottish_government_food_fund/)