

# Larne Foodbank Annual Report 2015/16



PREPARED BY

ALAN TURNER

## Client numbers

458 vouchers were fulfilled. 620 adults and 236 children received three days of food. The total recipients were 856. This is an increase in the total recipients of 53% on the previous year.

## Vouchers issued

	No.	%
Simon Community	151	33
MEACA	128	28
CAP	30	7
Salvation Army	23	5
Dr Howie surgery	20	4
Womens Aid	17	4
Larne Parental Support	11	2

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Over 60% of vouchers are issued by two referrers.

## Donor statistics

Total donations 11.34 tonnes.

	Tonnes	% of total
Churches	8.27	73
Schools	0.90	8
Other	2.14	19

Larne Foodbank has established links with Dunnes Stores and ASDA in Larne. Dunnes has helped initiate vouchers for bread and have kindly provided us with the facility to hold a recent bag pack. This generated £466.92. ASDA's community champion has worked with us to provide

a monthly trolley for food donations and we have also benefitted from an information day and a charity vote which earned us £50. We look forward to developing these relationships.

Kilwaughter Chemical has provided us with a splendid donation of £1,000. Other financial donations came from Moyle PS, First Larne Church, Inner Wheel and All Saints and St Patricks Churches.

Olderfleet PS, Linn PS, Moyle PS, Corran Integrated School, Carnlough PS, Roddensvale School, Glynn Youth Club and Kilbride Presbyterian Church Bible class have supported Larne Foodbank at harvest and Christmas with fantastic collections of food.

One family has donated food anonymously on a weekly basis but has also contributed ten generous hampers for us to distribute at Christmas. Another member of the same family has organised two indoor car boot sales. These generated £180 and donations of food for Larne Foodbank.

## Crisis types

The four most frequent crises were as follows:-

	Vouchers	Total fed
Low income	136	284
Homeless	70	84
Benefit changes	63	105
Benefit delays	59	107

Of particular interest is that if the two groups *Benefit changes* and *Benefit delays* are combined there has been an increase of 154% on last year. This demonstrates the impact of the austerity programme. Further Northern Ireland changes have yet to be implemented and this will surely lead to more citizens having to take advantage of support from Larne Foodbank.

## Volunteers

Larne Foodbank depends on its volunteers to deliver the service we offer. We have 70 volunteers. "Volunteers do not get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless." That applies in abundance to our volunteers.

## Possible expansion to Glenarm and Carnlough

Antrim Coast Lions has held pre-packaged food parcels from Larne Foodbank for quite some time but we believed that there was probably a latent demand for our services in the area. To that end a series of meetings has been held with representatives of the churches in the area. Posters have been displayed and vouchers passed to those who are willing to be referrers to Larne Foodbank. Whether clients will be prepared to use Antrim Coast Lions charity shop or attend Larne sessions to collect food will be monitored.

## Trussell Trust foodbanks in Northern Ireland

Larne Foodbank is in existence for three years. When first established we were perhaps the third local TT foodbank. There are now 22 foodbanks in the province. This rapid growth indicates the need for those in crisis.

The first Northern Ireland conference was held recently in Belfast. This well attended event provided the opportunity to learn from TT speakers but also from the experiences of other foodbanks.

