

# Food Bank Facts & Stats

An estimated

## 8.4 million people

in the UK experience **food poverty\***

\*This means experiencing difficulties which leave someone unable to meet basic food, shelter or clothing needs.

### LUTON FOODBANK HISTORY

Luton Foodbank was founded in 2013 in a response to rising levels of deprivation in the the Luton town area.

During 2019, Luton Foodbank gave out 12,000 food parcels.

Luton Foodbank gives out an average of around 250 food parcels each week.

During especially difficult times, such as the lead-up to Christmas, the weekly number of food parcels exceeds 400.

To get a food parcel you must get a food voucher from one of Luton Foodbank's official referral agencies.



### GETTING HELP

Referral agencies include schools, hospital, local council, and other charities in the town, as well as local religious organisations.

The referral agency will assess you and provide you with a food voucher. You can then collect the food from one of the distribution centres found all around the town.

### Possible reasons for using a food bank

BENEFITS HAVE STOPPED

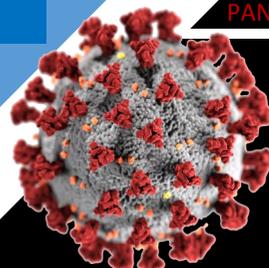
AN ADULT HAS LOST THEIR JOB

STRUGGLING WITH FINANCES & CAN'T AFFORD FOOD

BREAKDOWN OF THE FAMILY (PARENTS HAVE SPLIT UP)

DEBTS PILING UP

LOSS OF HOME



Covid-19 has resulted in a drastic increase in the number of enquiries to Luton Foodbank.

### PANDEMIC & BEYOND

The Job Retention Scheme, which helped protect many jobs, is changing in October. Thousands of people may lose their jobs as a result. 670,000 people from low-income households will become destitute by the end of the year in the UK.

Luton Foodbank also takes donations of other items that are then passed on to service users.

These include pet food, toiletries (soap, shampoo, toilet rolls) and feminine hygiene products.

### THE TRUSSELL TRUST

A big organisation that supports 1200 food banks in the United Kingdom.

They predict a 61% rise in food-bank use between October and December, as more & more people are hit by food poverty.

ESTIMATED FOOD ITEMS NEEDED OCTOBER TO DECEMBER: **864,000**

That means a food parcel going to our society's most vulnerable people EVERY TEN SECONDS !

### INDEPENDENT FOOD BANKS

It is estimated that there are over 1000 independent foodbanks around the country being run by a network of volunteers.

Luton Foodbank is one of these independently run food banks.



### FOOD PARCELS & OTHER ITEMS

Each adult food parcel contains 21 items. Child parcels contain 14 items.

Food parcels last 5 days each, and a person can use Luton Foodbank up to 5 times a year.

Food parcels contain long-life food items so people receiving them don't have to worry about food going out of date.

A food parcel includes: UHT milk, fruit juice, rice pudding, custard, jam, cereal, tinned fruit, tinned meat/fish, sugar, teabags, coffee, tinned tomatoes, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, baked beans, & tinned spaghetti.