

**An update from Horsham Matters – June 2021**

I am pleased to let you know that our services have been back up and running since 12th April.

It has been a huge relief to have our foodbanks open; our new services launched and the shop busy with customers.

This week we are celebrating National Volunteer Week! We are so incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing workforce of volunteers. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page as we will be sharing some of the work our volunteers do whilst at Horsham Matters. My thanks to each and everyone one of you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you involved in our street collection in April; you did a great job of promoting our Charitable work. Thank you!

On the subject of volunteers we are looking for volunteers for the following projects:

* Supporting our Hub on The Move- we are ideally looking for volunteers with experience in advice and guidance
* Afternoons, Monday – Saturday to assist in our Charity Shop
* Friday mornings supporting our Foodbank warehouse

**Foodbank**

As mentioned above our foodbank venues have opened; some existing and some new services.

Although, we have seen a drop in usage of our foodbanks we continue to support the whole district across the week with our blended approach to food provision.

Please be assured that we continue to review our data and working to ensure that those in need of food are being reached; some of the strategies we have introduced over the past couple of weeks include:

* Working with partner agencies across the District to raise awareness of our new schedule as well as setting them up to complete e-referrals for their clients
* Advertising our foodbank services on our social media platforms
* Promotion of our services through newspapers etc.

Our statistics tell us that the Supermarket foodbank and the Hub on the Move have had most attendees. We will keep this all under review.

We have once again been working with schools across the District, delivering in excess of 200 half term food parcels. You may have noticed us putting out requests for specific food items as we have been experiencing low levels of some food.

We need the following items:

Tinned fruit

Tinned custard

Smash

Tinned vegetables

Toiletries

Conversely, we definitely don’t need cereal, tea or soup!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued donations of food it is much needed.

As you know the scale of our work has dramatically increased over the past year and as such we have had to adapt our approach to summer holiday provision for schools. It is operationally impossible for us to pack and deliver 200 parcels each week for 7 weeks we will therefore be adapting our scheme for the summer holidays. We will be providing a £20 supermarket voucher per household to support households during the first week; they will then be able to visit one of our foodbanks each week during the summer holidays to have a food parcel alongside fresh food.

If you would like to support our summer food project we would be very grateful to receive £20 supermarket gift cards, you can also make a donation of £20 for us to purchase a card on your behalf through our website donation button our through our online shop.

<https://www.horsham-matters.com/product-page/summer-food-voucher-for-families>

**Supporting us**

In addition the opportunities stated above we have a great event coming up; our Pedal 4 Poverty. Please keep an eye on our Fundraising Events page on the website and our facebook page as we begin to share details; I hope you can join us.

Finally, I wish you all continued health.

**Emma Elnaugh**

**Managing Director**

**Horsham Matters**