

B30 Foodbank Newsletter

LET DOWN BY DISABILITY BENEFITS

B30 Foodbank is helping an increasing number of clients who are being short-changed by a PIP benefits system designed to support people with extra living costs caused by long-term illness or disability.

In one case, a 36-year-old single man suffering from severe post-traumatic stress disorder and mental health problems, was not capable of making a claim for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) without the help of our benefits expert Adam Booth. Ultimately, the client received an extra £180 per week and more than £3000 in back payments. "It's a really complicated process," Adam explained. "Without me filling in the form and advocating his claim, he wouldn't have got the money he was completely entitled to. And I'm seeing more and more of these sort of situations where vulnerable people are being denied their benefits."

In another case, a 16 year old boy who attends a special school was denied PIP after previously receiving disability benefits. "We've lost about £500 a month, including my carer's allowance," mum Vicky explained. "It's no wonder people end up at foodbanks. It's a bit of a nightmare." Adam's confident the decision will be overturned at a tribunal, but that could take nine months - a situation he described as "despicable".

PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance. The Government says the change saves £1.5 Bn and targets support at those who need it most. It adds it'll improve the PIP process to provide world-leading support.

RECORD DEMAND IN NOVEMBER

Records were sadly broken in November as B30 Foodbank provided emergency food for 930 people – the highest single-month demand in the foodbank's history. In November 2017, 609 people were helped. The 50% annual increase is in line with Trussell Trust research into the impact of universal credit.



In just one two-hour session at the end of last month, 1.3 tons of food were distributed to 93 adults and 86 children - that's three people every two minutes.

Mike Claridge is the minister at The Cotteridge Church, where the foodbank is based. He described the latest figures as "an absolute scandal". The foodbank expects December to be even busier.

ALL WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS.....

As well as all your usual fantastic donations, here's a Christmas list for donors who want to help our clients have as coolest Yule as possible..

- Tinned Ham, other meats and Salmon,**
- Tinned potatoes & vegetables**
- Tinned fruit Mince pies & custard**

Over Christmas, we're asking for donations to be delivered direct to our new warehouse: Unit 9, Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Park, B30 3HZ.

For December only, The warehouse will be open on both Tuesdays & Fridays between 2.30pm - 4.30pm



B30 Foodbank Statistics: December 2017 – November 2018

Total No of adults fed in the last 12 months

5410

Total No of children fed in the last 12 months

3555

Total No of people fed in the last 12 months

8965

Total amount of Kgs of food received in the last 12 months

78645

Total amount of Kgs of food given out in the last 12 months

77665

Total number of voucher holder agencies who refer clients

227

FESTIVE OPENING TIMES

B30 Foodbank is opening every Tuesday and Friday through the holiday period with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

HARVEST BOON

There's been a record harvest for B30 Foodbank in 2018. More than 40 schools, churches and other organisations donated their collections, and the charity received an amazing total of 5.7 tons of food – the highest harvest total ever!. In the last year, the foodbank has given out an average of 5 tons every month, so this seasonal support is both very welcome and much needed.



Children, teachers and parents at Broadmeadow Junior School in Kings Norton collected a magnificent 132 kgs of food.

THE PERFECT PRESSIE

No idea what to buy the person who has everything? Then the B30 Foodbank gift voucher (£5, £10, £20 & blank) supports the cause and solves the problem! Get them at info@b30.foodbank.org.uk

CHRISTMAS DATES for the DIARY

Volunteers will be collecting cash only for B30 Foodbank at Kings Norton Farmers Market on Saturday December 8th. The community stall will be open between 11am and 4pm.

And #brumfeeds will be holding its second big drop in the German Market on Saturday December 14th between 7am and 5pm.

During busy foodbank sessions in December, please bring long-life food to our warehouse, rather than to the church.

At all other times, our regular food drop-off points will be open as usual. Click [HERE](#) to see where to donate.

The Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South, Cotteridge, B30 3EU

The foodbank is open 2.30pm – 4.30pm on Tuesdays & Fridays



07582 143972



info@b30.foodbank.org.uk



www.b30.foodbank.org.uk

 [Facebook.com/B30foodbank](https://www.facebook.com/B30foodbank)



twitter.com/FoodbankB30

SUPER STORE DONATION



We remain grateful for the support of many local supermarkets including the new Sainsburys store at Selly Oak Boulevard which donated these three trolleys of food worth £250.

"UNIVERSAL DISCREDIT"

The British government has inflicted "great misery" on its people with "punitive, mean-spirited, and often callous" austerity policies. That's the conclusion of Philip Alston, the UN's rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, following an investigation in the UK.

On food banks, he said: "I was struck by how much their mobilisation resembled the sort of activity you might expect for a natural disaster or health epidemic."

Mr Alston said Universal Credit, which continues to drive people to seek support from B30 Foodbank, was "fast falling into universal discredit". He added that benefits sanctions were "harsh and arbitrary", and vulnerable claimants "struggled to survive."

He highlighted the chancellor's decision in this month's budget to give a tax cut to the rich rather than using that money to alleviate poverty for millions, adding: "Austerity could easily have spared the poor, if the political will had existed to do so."

The government "completely disagreed" with the analysis, stating that household incomes were at a record high, income inequality had fallen and universal credit was supporting people into work faster.

[statement about conclusions](#)



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR BRILLIANT SUPPORTERS, VOUCHER HOLDERS & VOLUNTEERS. Together, in 2018 we will have provided emergency food for about 9000 people.

