

## Foodbank's first four months confirms a need



# Community Feature

Throughout the country in the past year Trussell Trust foodbanks distributed three days' emergency food to over 900,000 people and now Crowborough Foodbank has confirmed that even in this part of East Sussex there is a similar real and present need.

"In our first four months," says Andrew Drummond Smith, Crowborough Foodbank Deputy Co-ordinator, "135 people received three days of emergency food from us – made up of 73 adults and 62 children."

When the foodbank was opened on 7<sup>th</sup> January as a project of Crowborough & Rotherfield Churches Together and

under the guidance of the Trussell Trust, the organising team was uncertain about the depth of need in the area, although over a year's research suggested there was a demand.

Now that the need has been proved, the foodbank is aiming to encourage a wider awareness of its operation throughout the district. During April and May 6,000 leaflets were delivered across Crowborough and posters have appeared around the town and in Jarvis Brook and Rotherfield, asking "Is anyone you know struggling with a sudden crisis?"

"Every day people in the Crowborough area go hungry," says Andrew Drummond Smith,

"for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill to domestic violence, to family breakdown or changes in benefit."

In response to such crises the foodbank's 44 volunteers work together to provide a minimum of three days nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food and support from its base at the United Church in Croft Road. It is open every Tuesday and Friday between 2pm and 4pm. To claim food for themselves and their family, each client has to provide a voucher provided by one of Crowborough Foodbank's referral agencies who include the Citizens Advice Bureau, Clued-up.info, Wealden Refuge, the Children's Centre, School Nurses and Health Visitors.

"In the coming year," says Foodbank Co-ordinator Freda Robinson, "we hope to increase the number of partner agencies who refer clients to us and to increase the awareness of whom we support and how those facing a crisis can benefit from the foodbank."

Crowborough Foodbank can be contacted on 07936 515 798, by email at [info@crowborough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@crowborough.foodbank.org.uk) or at [www.crowborough.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.crowborough.foodbank.org.uk)

Twitter followers can keep in touch at: @CrowboroughFB