

Welcome to Foodbytes, Spring 2026!

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being part of our community. Whether you volunteer, donate, or simply care about what we do, you help make it possible for us to support families and individuals when they need it most. Read on for what's been happening at Basingstoke Foodbank over Christmas and in 2025!

Our 7 Centres across Basingstoke and Tadley are open throughout the week for those facing financial hardship to receive 3 days of food and other essential items.

Each centre has its own dedicated team who volunteer weekly and provide a welcoming environment for clients to come, and over tea and coffee, choose their food and have a chat. They also work to direct clients to other charities, organisations and support services that can help in their individual situations.



Most Needed Items

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Fruit Juice | Deodorant |
| UHT Milk | Shampoo |
| Peanut Butter | Conditioner |
| Marmite | |
| Tinned Meat | |
| Tinned Spaghetti/Pasta | |



Christmas Hamper Project 2025

"It is a very wet Thursday and we have just received the loveliest gift from two wonderful gentlemen who were soaking wet, poor things. The Christmas hamper we've received is wonderful, it will help our family immensely over the Christmas period, everything is perfect and NOTHING will go to waste. We'd like to wish everyone at the Foodbank a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you all."

- A hamper recipient

This year's Christmas Hamper Project was a tremendous success! We delivered 945 hampers, which fed 3,214 people across Basingstoke and the surrounding areas, made possible by the generosity and dedication of our entire community.



Our Christmas Hamper Project works to provide a hamper of essential food items along with Christmas treats to individuals and families in and around Basingstoke. Working with over 160 partnering agencies, we receive hamper referrals from across the whole community, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

Each year it is a joy to see the community coming together to support those who might otherwise go without and this year was no different. We have loved having so many individuals, companies, churches and other groups involved in the Basingstoke Christmas Hamper Project. This collective effort truly embodies the spirit of Christmas and demonstrates the compassion and generosity that defines our community.

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who made this year's Christmas Hamper Project possible, with particular thanks to Legal and General who allowed us the use of the unit at Kingsland Business Park giving us a great space to wrap and pack the hampers, but also to everyone who donated, volunteered, organised and supported the project! Thank you for being part of our Christmas Hamper Project 2025!

To be notified of when the 2026 sign up form goes live, register your interest here: forms.gle/w1uTnCt4V4CNQR3EA



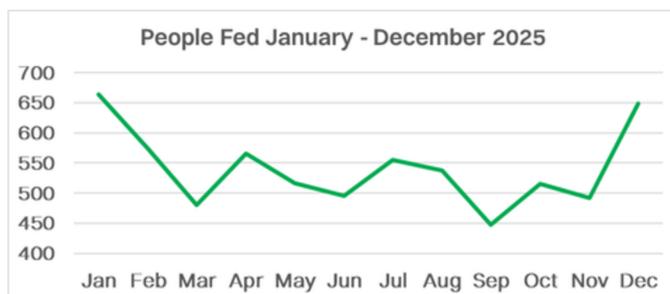
Looking back at 2025

The Statistics

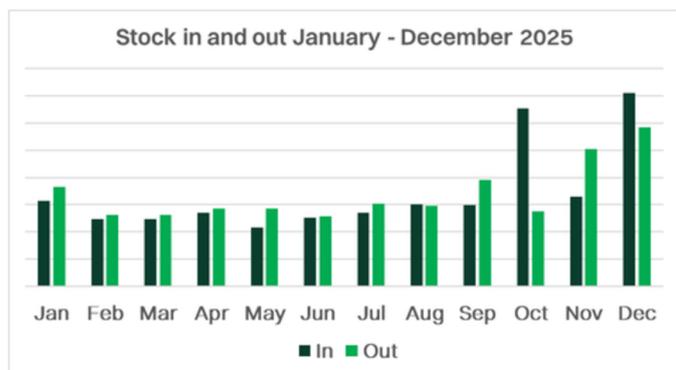
Last year we provided a total of 3093 food parcels, which fed 6493 people in total who were at risk of hunger. Of these, 4000 were adults and 2493 were children.

This is in addition to the 3214 people who benefitted from receiving a Christmas Hamper during December. We also support a number of other local charities with food cupboards and emergency one day food packs.

Month to month, the total number of people we have supported with food parcels has varied from around 700 people to 450 people a month. The busiest months were January and December and the quietest was in September.



Due to the rising cost of living, the value of our food parcels containing three days of food and emergency supplies, has increased significantly. As of February 2026, the value of the parcel for one person is £54 and for a four-person household is £95. This represents a significant increase from February 2025, when the same parcels were valued at £42 and £81 respectively. These values are calculated by conducting a virtual shop for our parcels.



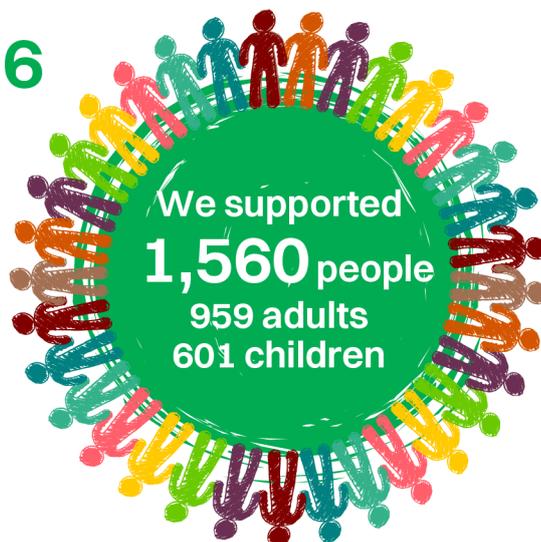
We have continued to have a good balance of stock coming in (82,000kg) and going out (81,000kg) during 2025, and as usual Harvest and Christmas were a big help in ensuring we have enough supplies for the year ahead.

Stats: Nov 2025 - Jan 2026

Food Received
27 Tons

*Thank
You!*

Food Distributed
28.5 Tons



money **A Year of Transformation** lifeline

After facing an uncertain future at the start of 2025, Basingstoke's debt advice charity Money Lifeline experienced a remarkable turnaround during the year.

Money Lifeline, supported by local churches, provides free, confidential face-to-face debt advice to people struggling with debt. The charity helps clients understand their finances, create affordable budgets, claim appropriate benefits, and negotiate with creditors and bailiffs. Their compassionate approach aims not just to address the numbers, but to help people reclaim control of their lives and escape the deep distress that financial worries bring.

This time last year, after 18 years of working with hundreds of individuals and couples to move through financial crisis, closure seemed inevitable. The majority of volunteers were planning to step back, and new volunteers had not been found. However, summer brought an unexpected turnaround. Thanks to additional publicity from the Foodbank, five new volunteers came forward and are now well advanced in their training as debt advisers. Combined with changes in other volunteers' circumstances, this means Money Lifeline was able to continue its vital work without interruption.

The charity's work encompasses everything from agreeing affordable repayment plans to assisting with debt relief orders or bankruptcy proceedings, always providing the time and care needed to truly understand each client's situation.

"Money Lifeline have changed my life, they're supportive, compassionate, caring and understanding. Amazing team. Keep doing what you're doing you change peoples lives."

Looking ahead, Money Lifeline remains committed to its mission of helping local people find their way through financial difficulty, offering not just practical advice but genuine compassion and support when it's needed most.

If you are interested in finding out more about Money Lifeline, in need of debt support, or want to support the work of Money Lifeline, visit the website www.moneylifeline.org, email moneylifelinebasingstoke@gmail.com or call 07954 040961.

Stay Connected with Basingstoke Foodbank!

Follow, like and share us on Facebook to stay updated on our latest news, events, and community efforts - and to help us spread the word and make an even bigger impact!

Sign up to our Foodbytes mailing list by visiting our website at basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/stay-in-touch/ or by scanning the QR code:

