

December 15th 2023 - Cost of Living Working Group – Stroud District Foodbank

As agreed by the Cost of Living (CoL) Working Group, these monthly briefings will now focus on a single topic.

This month's topic is an update about Stroud District Foodbank. Amanda Stover, Stroud District Foodbank Manager had intended to join us on the 15th December but unfortunately had to cancel due to the pressures of demand at the Foodbank. The number of parcels they have distributed so far in December has gone up more than 100%, compared to the same period last year.

Increased Outreach Foodbank Sessions

The Foodbank are working closely with the Community Hubs to deliver outreach sessions and have increased their locations across the District this year as new Hubs have developed. See timetable below.

Location	Date & Time	Service
Berkeley, St Mary's Church Church Lane Berkeley, GL13 9BN	Thursdays 2-3 (Deliveries are also available at other times by arrangement)	Collection & Delivery
Cam- GL11 Community Hub GL11 Community Hub Fairmead, Cam, GL11 5JS	Tuesday 3-4:30 Thursday 3-4:30	Collection & delivery
Cashes Green Community Centre 1-3 Queen's Dr, Cashes Green, Stroud GL5 4NR	Friday 2-3:30	Collection & delivery
Dursley- Chantry Centre 34-36 Long St, Dursley GL11 4JB	Monday 2-3 Wednesday 2-3 Friday 2-3	Collection & delivery
Nailsworth - The Arkell Centre, Nympsfield Rd, Nailsworth, Stroud GL6 0BG	Thursday 2:30-4 (Deliveries are also available at other times by arrangement)	Collection & delivery Open from Thursday 23 rd November
Stonehouse- Douglas Morley Hall Stonehouse Methodist Church, Park Rd, Stonehouse GL10 2DW	Tuesday 11:30-12:30 Thursday 11:30-12:30 Friday 11:30-12:30	Collection & delivery
Stroud- Delivery Service	Monday 12-2 Wednesday 12-2	Delivery only (For same-day deliveries)

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	Friday 12-2 (<i>later deliveries sometimes available from Cashes Green in emergencies</i>)	referrals are to be received by 11 a.m.)
Stroud- Paganhill Farmhill Lane, Paganhill, Stroud GL5 4BX	Wednesday 1-2	Collection only
Stroud- Trinity Rooms Field Road, Stroud GL5 2HZ	Tuesday 11:00-12:00 Thursday 1-2 Friday 1-2	Collection only
Wotton - Delivery Service	Daily Monday-Friday from 1pm	Delivery only For same-day deliveries referrals are to be received by 1pm

Foodbank and Advice Partnerships

The Foodbank is working in partnership with Citizens Advice and P3 to host their advice workers during outreach Foodbank sessions. Seeing clients for 1:1 advice appointments in outreach venues is a great advantage for Hubs and clients. The Hubs know they can encourage clients to visit during a weekly Foodbank session and they will get the advice they need. Some of this extra advice resource has been funded by the Trussel Trust and some has been funded from the Household Support Fund in response to the Cost of Living crisis.

Foodbank Usage Statistics and Opening Hours for Christmas 2023

Year-to-date figures with 3-year comparisons for the same period. Another increase this year and compared to 2021 an increase of over 100%.

Total Parcels 01/01/23-14/12/23	Adults	Children
8757	5252	3505
Total Parcels 01/01/22-14/12/22	Adults	Children
7467	4536	2931
Total Parcels 01/01/21-14/12/21	Adults	Children
4193	2571	1622

The Foodbank staff and volunteers are under a lot of pressure right now. It is hamper season and they also have a huge increase in referrals, over 900 emergency parcels so far this month (1st-14th Dec). They did 439 for the same period last year.

Christmas 2023 Hours - Due the pressure of the winter period, the Stroud District Foodbank have a policy of giving their staff and volunteers time off between Christmas and New Year. This year the Foodbank will be closing on Friday 22nd December. Referrals need to be with them no later than 11am that day. They are closed 25th & 26th Dec and will be open for

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referrals (reduced hours – 10am-midday) on 27th,28th, 29th Dec. Their centres are closed from Fri 22nd and re-open on Tuesday 2nd Jan.

SDC will share the Foodbank festive closing times on our social media.

A member briefing document is being prepared for the SDC out of hours service arrangements for the Christmas period. This is being agreed with Group leaders and will be shared after the meeting on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

Next:

The next Cost of Living Working Group will be on Friday 19th January 24, 10:00-11:00, online and will focus on the work of the Citizens Advice.

Citizens Advice	19-Jan
Council Tax and Housing	16-Feb
Community Hubs	15-Mar

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