



ANFB partners with a number of “Exempt Hostel” housing providers across the city offering food support to their licensees who live in these “Houses of Multiple Occupation”. Most providers offer positive key-worker support that includes visits to ensure their most vulnerable people can access appropriate help when required and to ensure their safety.

However, a recent upsurge in multiple occupied accommodation nationwide has revealed a disturbing trend that is being observed within our foodbank. Some people living in these HMOs complain at a lack of interest and little visible key-worker assistance which can lead to antisocial issues within their accommodation and vulnerable residents feeling unsafe, isolated and hungry!

A GROWING PROBLEM

A recent Guardian article investigated unregulated, hostel style accommodation particularly in Birmingham and said, “the hostels, which take everyone from ex-prisoners and people with drug and alcohol problems to discharged mental health patients and victims of domestic violence, are supposed to provide care and supervision but there are few checks because the accommodation is not commissioned by councils or government agencies”. According to the Guardian, “providers typically collect between £200 and £250 a week for each room with some also charging an extra £10 that is supposed to cover food, internet and bills”.

Birmingham has introduced the country’s first voluntary charter for providers which is part of a wider effort to tackle the issue – involving social workers, ASB teams housing inspectors Housing Transition Workers and the organised Police Crime Team. Providers will go through a rigorous assessment and work will be carried out with those wishing to attain the standard.

TURN2US
FIGHTING UK POVERTY

Turn2Us is an excellent resource that helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help, online, by phone and face to face. Use the confidential Benefits Calculator to find out what benefits you are entitled to claim.

www.turn2us.org.uk

However, an expected rise in homelessness now that eviction suspension is coming to an end will inevitably see an increase in unregulated ‘supported accommodation’ and once again the most vulnerable of our society will be at the sharp end.

As for us at ANFB, we look forward to the introduction of the voluntary charter that should aid the elimination of unscrupulous and uncaring housing providers!



VOLUNTEERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Aston & Nechells Foodbank

Summer BBQ

Friday 6th August 2021

All of our volunteers do such an amazing job and this is our chance to say

thank you!



THE VENUE

Christ Church, Burney Lane, Ward End, B8 2AS

6pm - 8.45pm

Good food, great company, family and friends welcome
lifts can be arranged, speak up if you need one!

Please email us at info@astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk or
let your session leader know if you are coming.

Keep The Lifeline!

“Everyone should have enough money in their pockets to afford decent food. To do this at the very least we need to make sure our social security system allows everyone to have enough money for the essentials. The government must start by not cutting Universal Credit by £20 a week this October.

“Millions of people could be forced to turn to foodbanks if the cut goes ahead in autumn. This will be a devastating blow for millions of households already struggling to make ends meet.

“It would be wrong of the government to take away money from already precarious incomes and push even more people through the doors of foodbanks. That’s why we’re saying this October, the government must choose to protect people and choose to keep this lifeline.”

Gary Lemon, director of policy and research at the Trussell Trust

Meet Corinne



Our Friday foodbank is located at the Salvation Army Youth Centre in Gladstone Street Aston, which has been a familiar building and community resource for some 30 years. Corinne Seabridge, current leader at the centre, is a great friend and supporter of ANFB, and was recently commissioned as a lieutenant in the Army after studying as a cadet for the last three years.

“I was taken to the SA as a baby, so have been part of the corps all my life. I was dedicated at the SA. I became a Junior Soldier when I was 7 years old, and a Senior Soldier at 19 years old. I became a Christian as a child and first felt a calling to officership when I was 12 years old. It wasn’t until I was in my thirties I felt God was calling me to be a Salvation Army Minister.

“I’ve been as Aston since 2017 and although I’m now an officer in the Army, obviously I’m a Christian first, but I feel that God wants me to express my faith through the Salvation Army and the different ways I can do that at Aston. The centre has focused on young people for many years and it’s very much a team approach with Karac, Daniel, Paul and other volunteers who come alongside us”.

Corinne has participated as a Foodbank volunteer since her arrival and a vote of thanks goes to the Salvation Army who permitted the foodbank to continue throughout the lockdown period although every other activity at the centre was cancelled.

“It’s become quite a journey and of course we’ve had to adapt through the pandemic and I’m pleased we were able to put the measures in place to help that continue, but I just enjoy being involved, part of the team. It’s an opportunity to meet people and to help in a practical way, to be welcoming, to offer a listening ear, to let people know someone is interested in them and to demonstrate God’s love through our actions”.

Congratulations to Corinne on the occasion of her commissioning, and long may we continue our valuable relationship with the Salvation Army!

Goodbye

Friend, supporter and Tesco Community Champion Mark Van Beumen moves on to pastures new in Belgium, his country of birth, as he seeks to serve God in a new role.



Mark takes with him our grateful thanks for his service and commitment to the community of Aston.



Hello

Welcome to Kelsey Hogan who has taken over from Mark as our new Community Champion at Tesco Aston Lane. We are always most grateful to the staff at Tesco who aid the smooth running of our food collections. Kelsey can be reached on 5504@tesco.com (Community Champion) or call 07871531200

WHERE ARE WE?

ANFB distribution centres are in Nechells, Ward End and Aston.

St Matthew's Church, Wardlow Road, Nechells, B7 4JH
every **Monday**
from 12.00 to 2.30pm

The Elim Church, Church Walk, St Margaret's Road, Ward End, B8 2HA
every **Wednesday**
from 1.00 to 3.00pm

The Salvation Army, Gladstone Street, Aston, B6 7NY
every **Friday**
from 12.30 to 2.30pm

ANFB Warehouse is located at St Matthew's Church, 63 Wardlow Rd Nechells B7 4JH and is open for deliveries from **10am to 12noon**

Welcome

Meet our very first paid member of staff, Suzi Lea is our Foodbank Project Manager / Coordinator, appointed in May of this year. Suzi will oversee the operation of our Foodbank, with concern for its efficiency and standards in accordance with the Trussell Trust franchise model.



This will be in partnership with our Management Committee, to guide the development of the foodbank, including its material resources, financial assets, reputation, partnerships and volunteer body.

Not an easy task!

Thank You

For many years, Rosemary Cripps has shouldered the bulk of our foodbank administrator/coordinator responsibilities but will now be stepping aside. Rosemary's consistent commitment to the foodbank has been invaluable, and we all owe her a debt of gratitude. Fortunately she will still be very much involved, but with the bonus of being able to pass on much of her previous 'load' to Suzi. Thank you



Mission verse

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me...."

Matthew 25: 35-36

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Thank you.



After a long break we were finally allowed to physically participate in the July national three-day Tesco Collection at Aston



Lane. Although not yet able to hand out our 'shopping lists', a team of volunteers covered two-hour shifts throughout the day to receive donations, their willingness to help was much appreciated, as was the generosity of so many shoppers, some pictured here with permission. Thanks again to our collections coordinator Hilary Miller who organised the event. The total of food collection was 495.9kg and £118 in cash.

NO CHANGE

We continue to put the safety of our volunteers and clients first and will therefore retain our policy of hand sanitising, wearing face coverings (unless exempt) and observing social distancing at our three centres until further notice.

Thanks for your co-operation.



Back in May we received an enormous donation of long-life food from Football For Peace that totalled an eye-watering 5.2 tonnes. Big shout out to fans and all who made it happen, not forgetting the volunteers who transported, sorted, dated and stored the lot! Thanks everyone.



contact us

Aston and Nechells Foodbank
Admin Office
St Matthew's Church
63 Wardlow Road
Nechells
Birmingham
B7 4JH
Phone: 0121 359 0801
mob: 07384 21362

info@astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

How you can help

Should you wish to support us financially at this difficult time, please go to our website and follow the donate links to JustGiving.

Thank you.

www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

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