

Todmorden Food Drop In Report for Todmorden Town Council

Charity Number 1201934

Todmorden Food Drop In has been providing an important service to people experiencing poverty in our community since 2013. It is entirely run by volunteers; currently 79. Quotes from the 2022 User Surveys of 2022 and 2025 include comments like: *“massive help,” “essential,” “wouldn’t survive without it” “The staff are lovely. It’s not nice sometimes admitting you need help but the staff at the foodbank are all so welcoming.”*

All at Todmorden Food Drop In are very grateful to Todmorden Town Council for supporting our food bank financially with £7,000 a year. The recognition by the Council of the importance of the Food Drop In to the community is very much appreciated. The Town Council’s support for the Food Bank is highlighted in grant applications and has likely contributed to the increase in successful applications.

Financial situation June 2024 to May 2025

In the financial year June 2024 to May 2025, we raised £96,513 in income but, for the first time ever, expenditure was greater at £139,422. The cost-of-living crisis has increased the demand for our service while at the same time the costs of everything we provide have gone up significantly. Trustees have responded to the financial situation by holding a fund-raising appeal in the local community, strengthening the capacity of the grants team and making a small reduction in the number of items people can choose.

Household size	No of items 2024	No of items 2025
1-2	15 +3 toiletries	14+3 toiletries
3-4	21+3 toiletries	19 +3 toiletries
5 or more	25 items + 3 toiletries	23 +3 toiletries.

Current financial situation

After a lot of hard work by many volunteers, we have built up our financial reserves again. The decision to become a Charity in 2023 has opened a much wider range of grant opportunities. £56,260 has been raised from grant applications so far this year with several outstanding applications waiting a decision. In the last financial year, the grant money raised was £20,000.

Todmorden Food Drop In has always had strong community support via Local Giving and fundraising activities. There was an exceptional response to our appeal for food items, donating money or fund-raising activities. For example, Todmorden High School held a non-uniform day and everyone who could brought in a food item such as pasta, tuna, tinned meat or toiletries. During December everyone doing the Saturday Park Run brought in food donations, which were brought to the food bank after the run finished. Fund raising activities included a 3 Valleys Choir concert which raised £652 and a disco at the Trades Club. The annual Christmas collection on the market raised £576.36. The improvement in our finances meant that, at Christmas, we once again provided everyone attending the Food Drop In with an additional bag full of Christmas goodies, much of which was donated by the local community.

More than a Food Bank

While people are waiting for their bag to be packed, they can relax in our free café, meet friends, make new friends, talk to volunteers, and enjoy a safe and welcoming environment. It was clear from our user surveys just how important the food bank is for mental health. *“Helpful, friendly, kind,*

supportive, like a family “was the way one person described the Food Drop-In. Others said “*community-everyone in the same boat,* “*social aspect-not on your own, always someone to talk to* “, “*life saver.*”

A lady stressed the difference the Food Drop-In had made to her after the death of her husband. “*Met other people, good to have company and make new friends. A big help emotionally, as well as financially.*”

Working with other agencies to improve lives

Every Saturday different advice agencies come in to help and support people. This has been very successful and made a huge difference to many. For example, in the year ending May 2025, Disability Support helped 144 people with housing and benefit issues and recouped over £139,000 for people. The breakdown on their work is: Personal Independence Payment 78 people, Housing/ homeless issues 23, Universal Credit 14, Attendance Allowance 10, Children’s DLA 4, Carers Allowance 3. They handled 12 mandatory reconsiderations/ appeals.

Current register

There are currently 300 households on our register, 453 adults and 226 children. The register changes constantly; households are removed if they haven’t been for 3 months, and there are new or re-registrations most weeks. We give out up to 150 food bags every week.

The ongoing support of Todmorden Town Council for this important service is very much appreciated.

June Turner

Trustee, Todmorden Food Drop In