

Annual Report 2018 and 2019

*“Helping you feed our hungry
neighbours”*



OUR OBJECTIVES VALUES AND AIMS OF THE CHARITY.

Our Objectives are:

To relieve persons in central Bedfordshire and the surrounding area that are in poverty or financial hardship in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, in particular, but not exclusively by:

1. Providing food packages to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation.
2. Providing other items to meet immediate and essential needs, as resources allow.
3. Developing other forms of support to meet immediate need and alleviate financial hardship.

To achieve these objects The Need Project has the following:

Our Values are:

We are a Christian organisation motivated by Jesus' teaching on poverty and injustice. We operate according to Christian principles of compassion, honesty, integrity, openness, kindness and care of all people, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs (or none). We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to what we do. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future.

Our Aims are:

The Trustees employ a number of strategies to assist The Need Project to alleviate poverty or financial hardship and meet its Objectives by:

- Providing free food parcels, and when resources allow furniture and clothing, for adults and families experiencing financial crisis.

- By providing food and other essentials to families and individuals referred to the charity by recognised social work agencies, local authorities, community bodies, churches, charities or other organisations whose purpose includes the prevention or relief of poverty ('referral agencies').
- Developing effective relationships with local councils (County, unitary, parish and town), referral agencies, faith groups and community groups.
- Ensuring wide community participation in the charity's projects through giving and raising awareness.
- Developing a culture of lifelong learning throughout the organisation to allow the trustees, core staff and volunteers to do their allotted jobs effectively.
- Building strong links with the local media, and regularly updating the charity's website to stimulate public awareness of the charity's work and the issues facing people in poverty and distress.
- Setting up social enterprises which add value to the charity's existing projects by generating surpluses.
- Identifying, evaluating and incorporating best practice in project templates to ensure that projects become self-sustaining and are easy to replicate.
- Working closely with churches to help the Christian faith community to take a more active, practical and effective role in social action.
- Providing educational support to enable those referred to become more self-sufficient where it is appropriate, and resources allow.

"OUR" KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

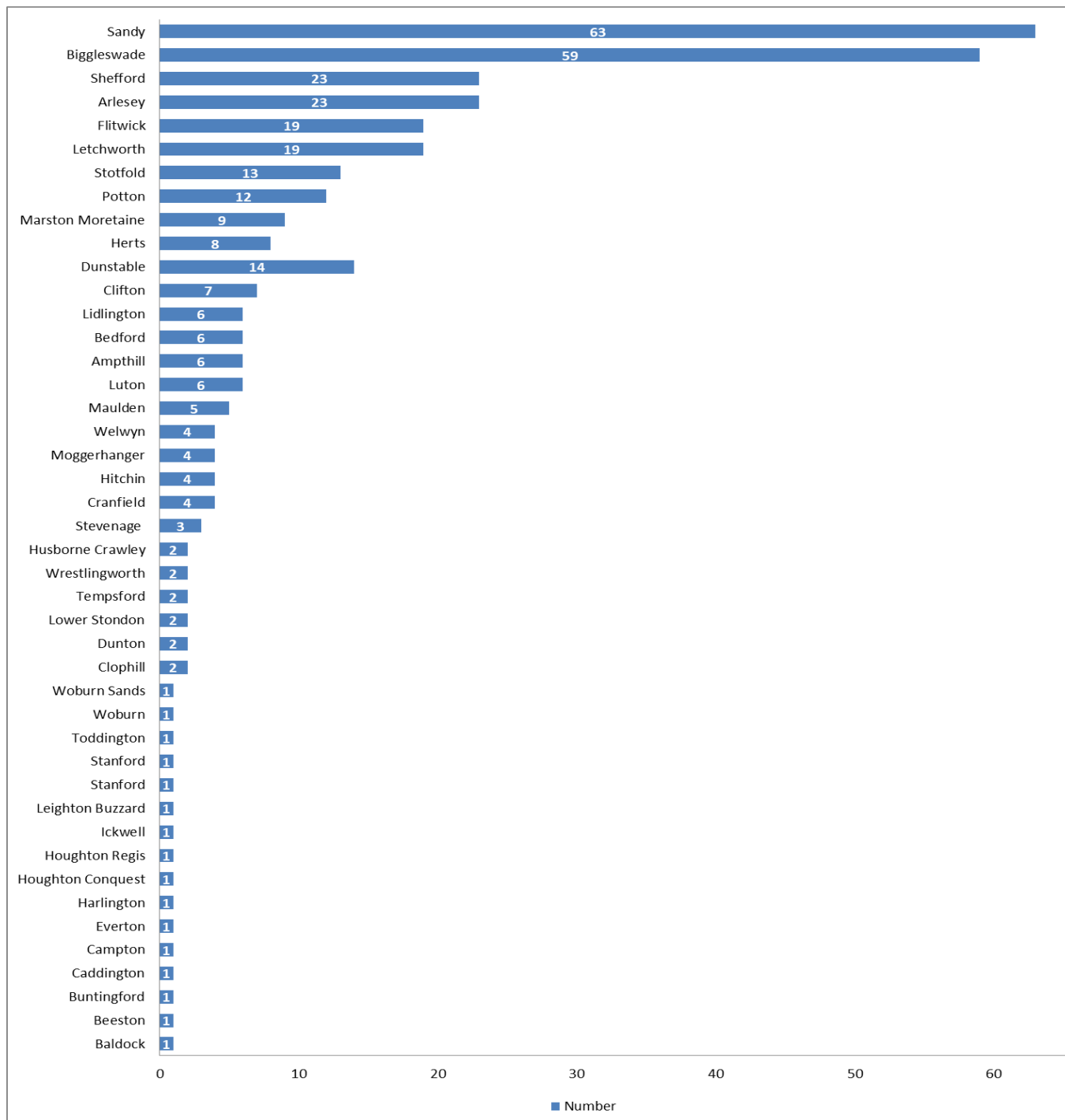
We have summarised below the outputs, outcomes, impacts and benefits of the work of the Need Project, but as Christian Charity it is our conviction that the Lord has done His work of meeting peoples' needs through our labours.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

These are the key outputs from our work, covering Christmas 2018, and our work through the year excluding Christmas.

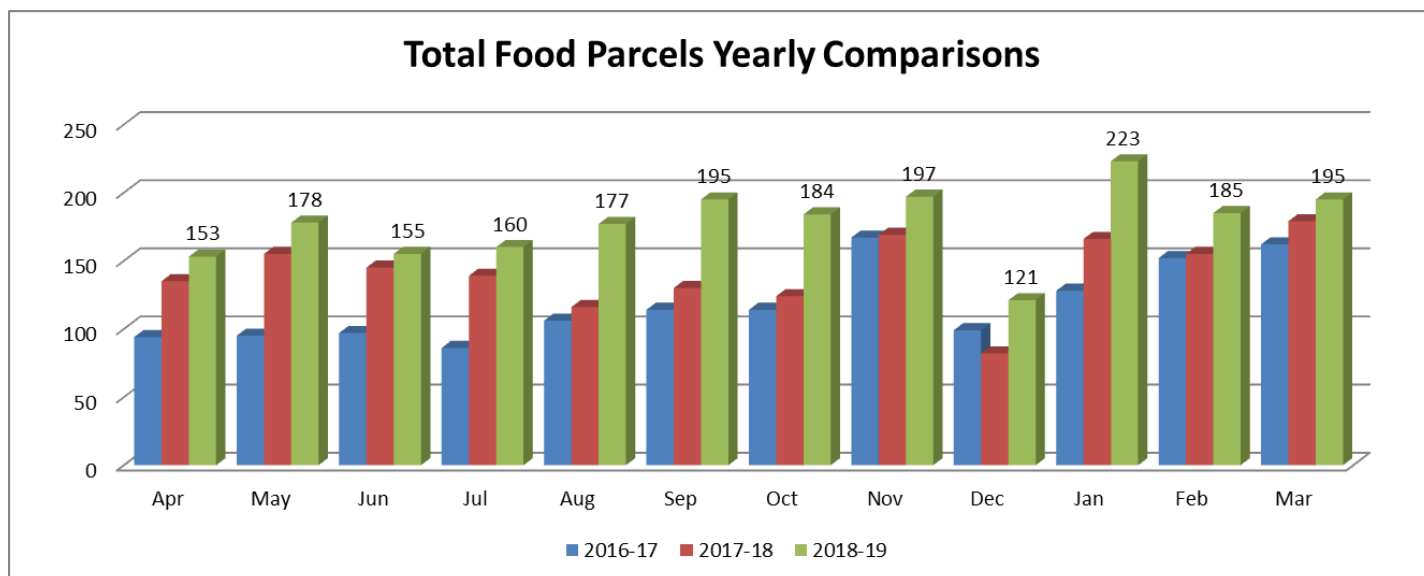
Christmas 2018

Two “hubs” packed and distributed Christmas Hampers, and the area of distribution covered over twenty-seven towns across Central Bedfordshire and parts of Hertfordshire. The total number of Christmas Hampers delivered was 431 (this did not include the regular parcels in December). The total cost of these Hampers was £30,170 (at an average cost of £70 per parcel).



April 2018 – March 2019

End of Financial Year



Total value to date at £54 per parcel	£ 114,642.00	Christmas Parcels at £70 per parcel	£ 30,170.00
Total value this month at £54 per parcel	£ 10,530.00	Overall Total Year from April to Date	£ 144,812.00

Yet again every month this past year has exceeded the previous two years in terms of food parcels delivered.

Statistics

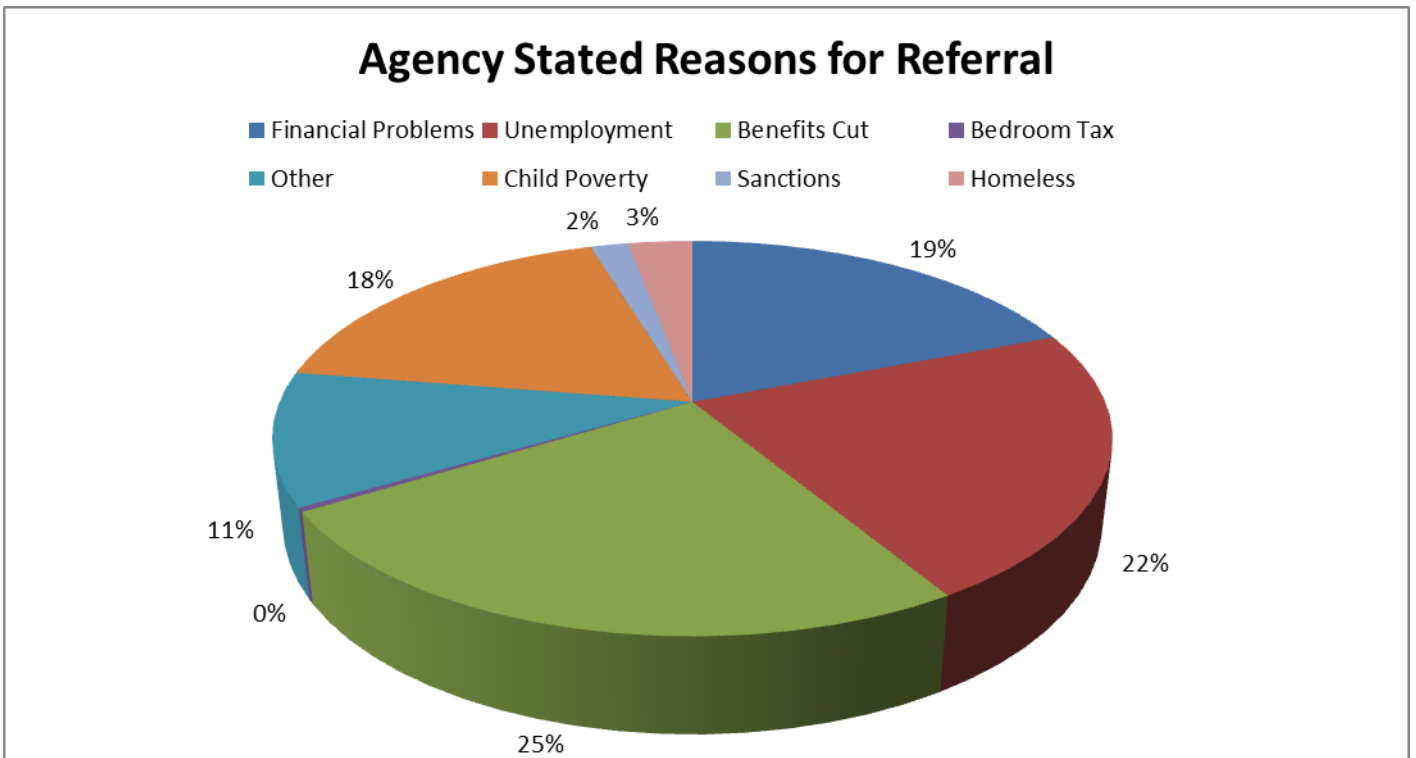
Adults & Children Served

<u>Children</u>	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-17	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals (yr)	1432	1604	769	3556	7361
Christmas	214	290	166	642	1312

Served by Each Distribution Hub

<u>Hubs Summary</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>
Flitwick	362	30
Sandy	393	33
Stotfold	584	49
Shefford	248	21
Biggleswade	228	19
Marston	66	6
Out of Area	292	24
	2173	

Analysis of the reasons for referrals



Furniture, Furnishings and White Goods

In addition to food parcels, we have been busy helping those in need of furniture and other household items. What we can supply is dependent on what is donated at any one time. The total for the year with conservative estimation of the second-hand values is below.

Items	Totals	Actual Items Includes	Totals
White Goods	41	Cookers	5
Beds, single, double, bunk	73	Fridges/ Freezers	13
Bedroom Furniture, Furnishings	39	Suites/Sofas	19
Lounge Furniture, Furnishings	92	Washing Machines	9
Misc &, Baby Equipment	41	Microwaves	14
Bedding	71	TV's DVD Players	13
Estimated Value	£15,990.00		

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

A new member of staff

Mrs Dawn Addams has joined the staff team on the project working alongside Gordon Hamilton.

Her role as Assistant Project Leader compliments Gordon's work and among her responsibilities Dawn will be driving continuous improvements to the operations of the Project.

GDPR Compliance

GDPR has been in force for over a year now. We have put procedures into place to ensure we are compliant. We have had no breaches or complaints, which we thank God for. There have also been no requests for personal information.

Our introduction of passwords on referrals is working well and as far as we are aware, everyone is following the procedures in place.

Safeguarding Policy

To ensure we maintain compliance with current legislation our Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and revised in January 2019.

PAT Testing

We now PAT test all white goods and electrical goods before they are given out.

Induction Training

All new volunteers have had up to date Induction Training.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

A sample from those we are called to serve

“I just wanted to write to say thank you so much to the Need Project for their ongoing support to the Syrian refugee families who King's Arms Project work with. Through your kind provision of good quality furniture, you're helping us to provide a warm welcome to some of the most vulnerable families in Bedfordshire, thank you!!”

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all at the Need Project for your help with the family that children's services have been supporting. This family of 4 were faced with homelessness and were given accommodation but had no furniture of their own, making family life very difficult. They have not had an easy journey but with help from the Need Project, which included beds, sofa's, wardrobes and a friendly face, they now have a comfortable home where the children can thrive. A little quote from the mother of the family: 'I didn't think that there was an end to this journey but now I have seen that miracles really do happen'. Without the Need Project, this miracle wouldn't have been possible.

Thanks,
Family Support Team
Central Bedfordshire Children's Services

Dear NEED PROJECT

Thank you for the generous food, toiletries and toys you gave my family. Unfortunately, my partner is ill, and I am on maternity leave, and money is tight with a 7-month-old to support.

The nappies were particularly helpful!

“I just wanted to say a most massive thank you for your support over the last few months in donating food and baby items to our homeless hostels. We have received approximately

2.5k of items and this has helped so many vulnerable people. Some donations have been given to a trafficked young mum, to young women who have escaped domestic abuse, to young people leaving care, to young unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and other vulnerable adults who live in our homeless hostels. You have helped with transporting the donations and all the help you have given us is so appreciated.

We cannot thank you and your team enough.”

“Amicus trust would like to thank u for all of your ongoing help and generous donations to the night-owl bus, making it possible for us to help many of those who are homeless and rough sleeping. Thank you so much.”

“I am the case worker for a single mother who now resides in the Letchworth area. The young mother, with one child, is on a limited income of benefits only and struggles each month to get by. I made a referral for furniture items to support the mother, who has recently been housed on the Grange Estate in Letchworth. The Need Project were very happy to help and provided a large amount of furniture to my client. They provided a sofa, wardrobe, side cabinets, several sets of drawers, lamps and other items. All items were delivered to my client’s address and they were very helpful in putting the items of furniture in place. My client was extremely grateful for the support that the Need Project provided.

I would just like to say that without the Need Projects support and help the family would have struggled to furnish their property and my client was extremely grateful to The Need Project for their support in providing these items.

Children’s Services are very grateful to the Need Project who offer continuous, friendly and professional support, by providing food and items of furniture, which is invaluable, to our families.

We look forward to working with The Need Project in the future.”

THE PROJECT LEADER'S REPORT

Well that year went fast; it only seems like yesterday I wrote the 2017/18 report. So much has happened since then. We are well established at the centre, opening three mornings a week, plus occasional days for various other purposes.

A great team of volunteers has been established at the Centre to man it during all our opening times. This is expanding all the time. We have a well-established Friday Morning Prayer time, between 9 and 10am, which we rely on greatly.

We have now employed another part-time member of staff to work alongside myself. This has helped with the increased workload, which has been steadily increasing month on month.

Between April and August this year, compared to the same period last year, the value of food provided has increased by approximately 25%, compared to an increase of approximately 17% the previous year. This is an ongoing concern, as year upon year it is on the increase.

We continue to work with various agencies, from Schools to Churches, Social Services, Housing Associations, Surgeries, Children Centres, Probation Services, Job Centres, Citizens Advice, Refugee Agencies, Homeless Shelters, Women's Refuges and anyone else who is experiencing food poverty.

The Need Project has always been a servant ministry, serving those less fortunate than ourselves, irrespective of faith, colour or gender. We believe everyone is entitled to be fed.

Our furniture provision is always busy with people looking for beds, furniture, white goods etc. Our open days, which we hold several a year, are always busy and it is a joy to serve and spend time talking to the people we invite.

In the future we hope to purchase a new larger van and increase our funding opportunities. We never thought when we started 10 years ago that we would be this busy, but there seems to be no let-up in demand for our services. Which through the grace of God's amazing provision, we have been able to supply a service, which reflects our servant heart. We are very grateful for all the support, we have received and continue to receive, whether it be prayer, finance or food, furniture or clothes donations, which all go towards making people's lives easier.

It is a great privilege to be able to serve in this way and we don't take the responsibility lightly and know we can only do it through God's strength and guidance taking us to wherever he leads us.

Praise God always

Gordon Hamilton

THE NEED PROJECT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS UP TO 31/03/2019**INCOME****£**

Donations from Churches	£	20,153.77
Grants from Trusts	£	21,201.00
Donations from individuals	£	9,000.99
Fund raising income	£	-
Misc. Donations	£	9,012.08
MyDonate	£	2,180.22
HMRC Gift Aid recovery	£	2,265.02

TOTAL INCOME £ **63,813.08**

EXPENDITURE**£**

Payroll	£	29,570.34
Van	£	4,401.28
Fuel	£	4,010.48
Food	£	225.20
Insurance	£	684.08
Stotfold Centre	£	12,168.09
Miscellaneous items	£	1,934.41

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ **52,993.88**

CHANGE IN RESERVES £ **10,819.20**

BALANCE AT END OF YEAR £ **24,753.15**

Results of the Independent Examiner

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire set out relating to the year ending 31st March 2019.

This examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts.

I can confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act.

I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a more detailed understanding of the accounts.

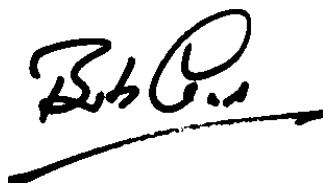
Mrs G Roberts

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We are exploring the following items to help us meet the growing demand on the project:

- Refresh the Trustees serving on the project.
- Note: This will be my final report as I stood down as a trustee on 17th September 2019, at our AGM, and Mr Steve Gaunt was appointed as chair of the trustees at that meeting.
- Improving our fund-raising strategy and focus.
- Expanding the use of the Central Hub to raise awareness of the project.
- Establish relationships with other churches across Central Beds to set up more distribution Hubs.
- Broaden the referral agencies who want to use our services.
- Strengthening existing Hubs.

On behalf of the Trustees of The Need Project Central Bedfordshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Cain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bob Cain

Chair of Trustees