

Annual Report 2019 – 2020



“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

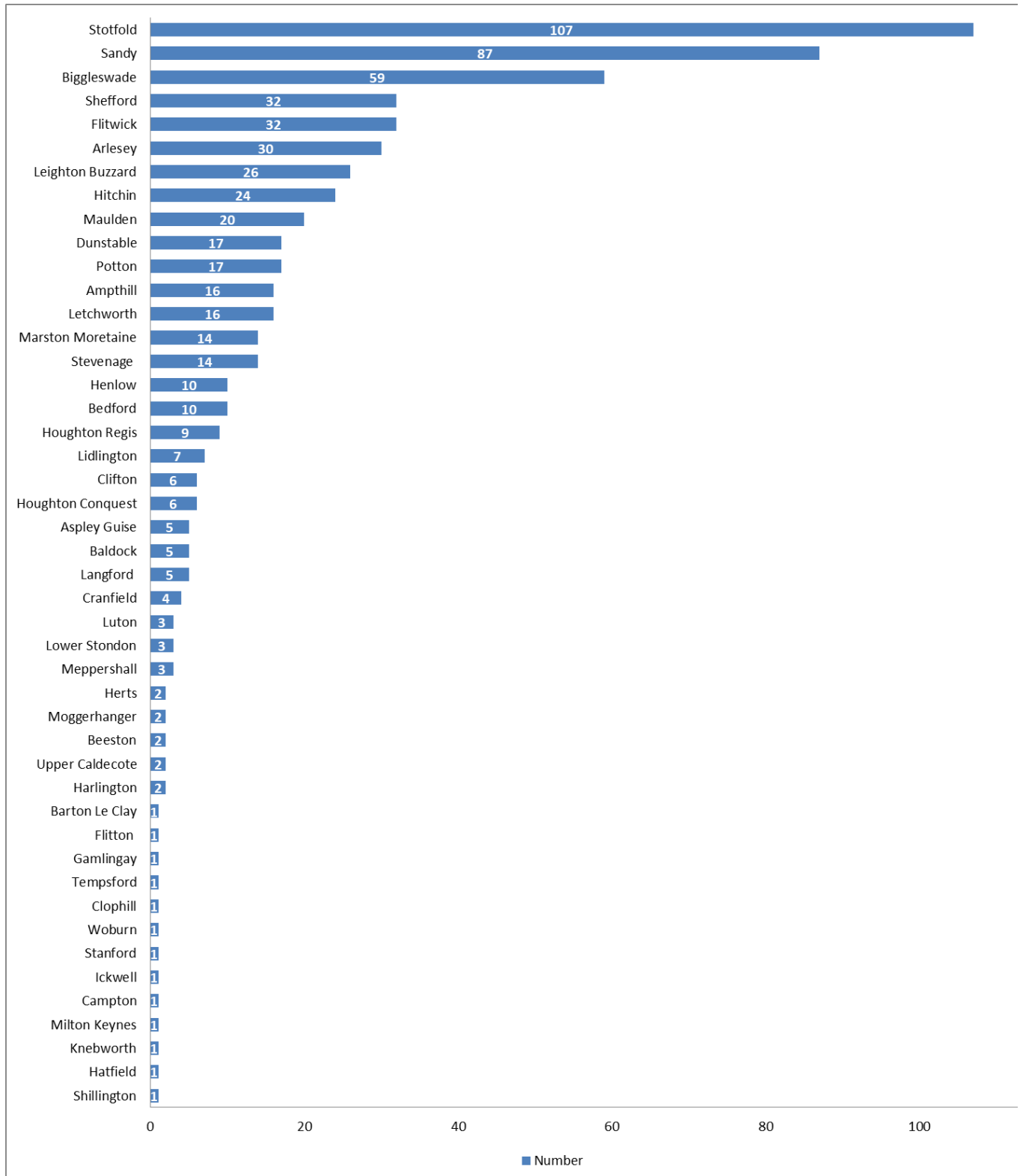
We have summarised below the outputs, outcomes, impacts and benefits of the work of the Need Project, but as Christian Charity it is our conviction that the Lord has done His work of meeting peoples' needs through our labours.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

These are the key outputs from our work, covering Christmas 2019, and our work through the year excluding Christmas.

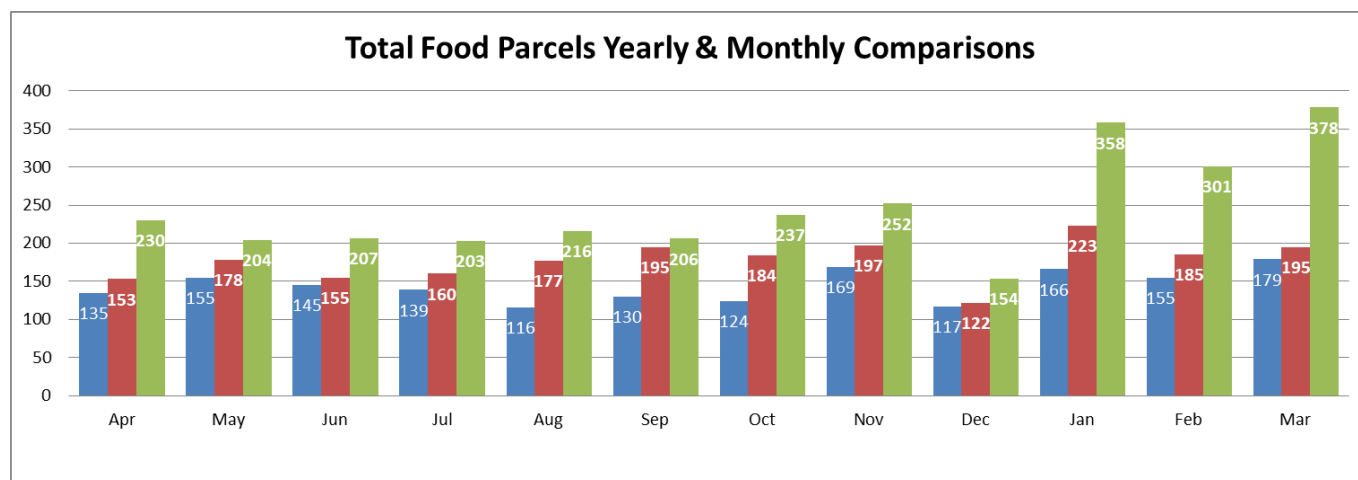
Christmas 2019

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 712 (this did not include the regular parcels in December). The total value of these Hampers was £49,840.00 (at an average value of £70 per parcel).



April 2019 – March 2020

End of Financial Year



Total value for financial year at £54/parcel **£159,084.00** Christmas parcels at £70/parcel **£49,840.00**

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

Statistics

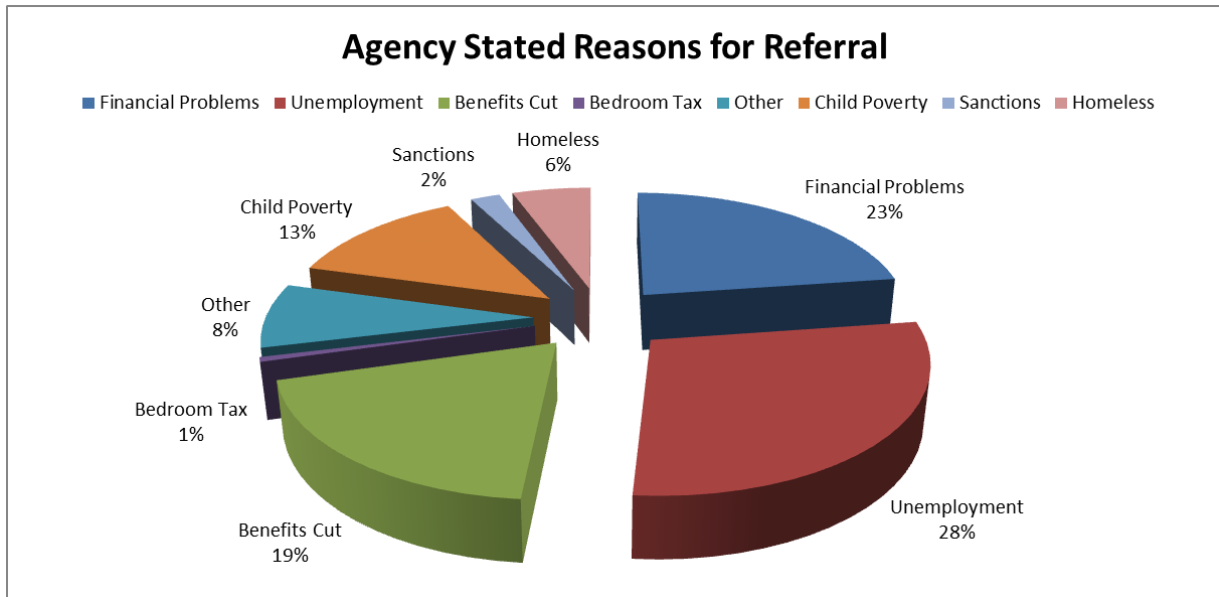
Adults & Children Served

<u>Children</u>	<u>Age 0-4</u>	<u>Age 5-10</u>	<u>Age 11-17</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals (yr)	1768	2207	1569	5214	10758
Christmas	280	526	286	1018	2110

Served by Each Distribution Hub

Hubs Summary		
Flitwick	354	30
Sandy	660	55
Stotfold	773	64
Shefford	363	30
Biggleswade	334	28
Marston	106	9
Out of Area	356	30
	2946	

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	
White goods	98
Beds, single, double, bunk	163
Bedroom furniture, furnishings	154
Lounge furniture, furnishings	281
Misc & baby equipment	174
Bedding	178
Estimated value	£33,130.00

Actual items include	
Cookers	8
Fridges/freezers	34
Suites/sofas	50
Washing machines	14
Microwaves	41
TV's / DVD players	44

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Record number of food parcels delivered – an increase of 39% on the previous year.

Dealing with the early effects of COVID-19 lockdown with the way we operated, the lack of food and the increase in the number of parcels delivered.

Employment of a part-time Assistant Project Leader.

Use of the Central Hub by outside organisations.

Identification of missing skills in the existing Trustees and new Trustee job description written.

Health & Safety and Employment policies signed off. All other policies reviewed and updated as necessary during the year.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE

A sample from those we are called to serve

“Hi All at the Need Project, I just wanted to send this message because we are so grateful for the food parcel you’ve delivered to us this morning. Half terms are always a struggle in our house and without you wonderful people, we wouldn’t be able to put a meal on the table for ourselves and our children. We truly are grateful for all you have done for us and can’t thank you enough. It broke my heart when my children got excited because you had given them a big box of Weetabix (their favourite cereal) and I must admit it did make us cry. You are amazing people and have hearts of gold. Thank you so much! All our love”

“Thank you. We are struggling so much to get back on our feet since my partner was made redundant. Tonight 2 lovely ladies dropped off food. I wish I had recorded my sons reaction to the fact he got Peppa Pig pasta and Mr Tumble pasta. He asks for it, but we just can’t afford to do it. I actually cried at his reaction and the washing powder, perfect timing. I can’t thank you enough.”

“Thank you so much for all the donors, I had a delivery from NEED yesterday and if it wasn't for you all I would have had nothing nor would my 2 year old. Your help is amazing and not feeling judged, you are fantastic all of you.”

“I write this letter of thankfulness to repeat and reinforce the spoken thanks offered when we collected from the Need Project so many bags of food and gifts a little while before Christmas. That some households were receiving even three bags of food, and then gifts for the children at home was wonderfully generous, and really appreciated. The quality and quantity of all you provided was hugely appreciated, as we were able to share practical encouragement with a number of friends within the church and indeed a number beyond. It was lovely to see the gratitude in the faces of those to whom I personally took the bags, and I gladly share the feedback with you within this expression of appreciation. The track record of the Need Project is an amazing one, that has surely seen the hand of God’s richest blessing upon it through the years, and we commend your work and your witness to the generosity of God and of his people in our prayers.”

“Thank you so much for all the work you do also all the donors I had a delivery from yourself yesterday and if it wasn’t for you I wouldn’t have anything to eat and nor would my two-year-old daughter. Your help is amazing you are fantastic all of you. Thank you.”

“You guys are amazing when my family had such a bad time last year you helped us out and cheered us up. We have made our donation via the school thank you so much for your help earlier this year to make lives easier and manageable for so many family. Thank you so much for our food parcel and presents I am so grateful. Have a great Christmas”

“I would just like to say a massive thank you for my food and the presents for the kids you are all amazing and I can’t thank you enough for what you done for me”

“Hi I’ve just received your Christmas hamper, as I was referred to you. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all of you at The Need Project it means a lot to me to receive from you. I wish you all very Merry Christmas and many blessings.”

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for the food parcel that you just delivered us for Christmas, your generosity really did make me cry. From the outside we look like any other family in the neighbourhood but money is a constant struggle since my husband left us three years ago and this parcel couldn’t have come at a better time as we are in the last five days of our month and won’t get any money until the 23rd which means this weeks dinners have been ‘different’ to say the least. I’ve been selling things to try and make Christmas better because the kids deserve more than I can give, just the little treats like biscuits and different cereals mean the world to them. So I guess I just wanted to say thank you again for such a wonderful gift. x”

THE PROJECT LEADER’S REPORT

This year has gone really quickly.

We continue to be busier month on month with no let-up in sight, but we are always staggered by God’s grace on our work. By that I mean his protection and his provision - be it finance or food provision or furniture – that all goes to bless our clients. We have seen a 39% increase in the number of parcels delivered across the year (with an extra value of £44.5K). The value of furniture, furnishings and white goods during the year has more than doubled.

Our client base has changed since we started the project and now covers every type of family, from single to couples with and without children, but they are all in need of help and we are grateful for the privilege of serving them in their time of need. The number of children and adults helped across the year has risen by 46% and over the Christmas period by 60%.

The agencies we work with include: Schools; Churches; Social Services; Housing Associations; Surgeries; Children Centres; Probation Services; Job Centres; Citizens Advice; Refugee Agencies; Homeless Shelters; and Women’s Refuges. The number of agencies continues to grow as more become aware of our work.

One thing will never alter and that is the type of ministry we are and why we do what we do. We are unashamedly a Christian charity based on the servant teaching of Jesus that means serving those less fortunate than ourselves, irrespective of faith, colour or gender. Not judging in any way, but just loving people with the love of Jesus.

As we came to the end of the year, we started to see the early signs that COVID-19 would have on many people's lives – hardship and struggle on a scale we have never experienced. We can only imagine what will happen next year as the country continues to experience lockdown. We have already started making changes to how we operate, how we deliver, how we collect and how we work in our centre and our hubs.

What about the future? Finances are tight, and COVID-19 will place upon us a large increase in demand for food parcels, and we are wondering how we will achieve all that we need to. But one thing I am sure of is that God will provide and that there will be some incredible acts of kindness that will allow us to continue to help feed our hungry neighbours.

Thank you to everyone who supports us through prayer, finance or food, furniture or clothes donations, from companies to individuals. Thank you also to Dawn and Dave and all the amazing volunteers, and the trustees.

Let us praise God always.

Gordon Hamilton

TREASURERS REPORT

THE NEED PROJECT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS UP TO 31/03/2020

	INCOME £
Donations from Churches	11,973.13
Grants from Trusts	37,603.16
Donations from individuals	20,254.60
Fund raising income	0.00
Misc. Donations	7,781.55
Web donations	3,746.67
HMRC Gift Aid recovery	1,178.00
TOTAL INCOME	82,537.11

	EXPENDITURE £
Payroll	41,730.33
Employers Pension and NI	1,546.69
Van	6,876.84
Fuel	4,322.74
Food	2,130.70
Insurance	689.08
Stotfold Centre	15,866.61
Miscellaneous items	2,963.18
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	76,126.17

CHANGE IN RESERVES **6,410.94**

BALANCE AT END OF YEAR **31,164.09**

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 2020.

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:

- Look for larger premises to act as the Central Hub.
- Buy or lease a second van to help with food collection and delivery of food parcels.
- New three-year vision.
- Succession planning for project staff and trustees.
- Contingency planning for loss of staff due to illness and lack of funds.
- Working with Your Farmer through their Farming Food Bank.

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

S R Gaunt

Steve Gaunt

Chair of Trustees