

## **Churches for Horley Food Bank Policy Statement**

Churches for Horley Food Bank is an initiative of Churches for Horley. It aims to support people living in poverty in Horley and the surrounding areas by helping those in short-term crisis situations. It will offer support to anyone in need regardless of background including age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, people of all faiths and none.

We offer support to those around Horley, from Salfords to Gatwick and Charlwood to Smallfield. People outside this area will mostly be served by neighbouring food banks in Redhill, Woodhatch, East Grinstead and Crawley.

Churches for Horley Food Bank will give free emergency food and basic toiletries to those in crisis and will help them as part of a package of support being offered by local agencies such as CAB, probation service, children's centres, health visitors, doctors' surgeries, social services, housing trusts, the police and local schools etc. It will not be up to the food bank to make a judgement on whether someone qualifies for food or not, the judgement will always be made by the referring agency.

### **How Does The Food Bank Work?**

Referral agencies identify families and individuals who need our support and issue a voucher entitling them to a food parcel. This is presented to the Food Bank who provide a food parcel, the size of which depends on the number of people in the family as indicated on the voucher. Clients are only able to obtain food if they present a voucher and a separate voucher must be issued for each food parcel. The food bank will not be providing food to people who turn up on the door without a voucher other than in an emergency situation which is at the discretion of the volunteers on duty.

Food parcels can be picked up from our centre based at Horley Methodist Church during two sessions per week (Wed 12.30-2.30 pm and Fri 2.00-4.00 pm). Clients can receive a food parcel on 3 occasions over a rolling 2 month period. Only one parcel will be issued a week although we are flexible in some cases where agencies identify clients needing further help and support.

We offer a warm welcome, sign-posting and a listening ear.

### **Run by the Community, For the Community**

Churches for Horley Food Bank is a non-profit making organization and relies entirely on donations of food and money from local schools, churches, businesses, organisations and individuals and every single item or penny given makes a difference.

Businesses, schools, churches and community groups can all get involved in helping the Food Bank in a variety of ways: donating food in our collection bins, bringing food to the centre and volunteering at our serving centre.

This centre is staffed by volunteers from the local area. The Food Bank may offer opportunities for a range of young people and adults to develop skills and benefit from volunteer sessions.