

INFORMATION PACK FOR TRUSTEE APPLICANTS

As a trustee, you will do all you can to further Salisbury Foodbank's Charitable Objectives. The objectives of the Charity are the relief of those in Salisbury and the surrounding areas who are in need by reason of financial hardship by:

- providing or arranging for the provision of food, toiletries and other essential household items to individuals and families
- helping individuals and their families to access information and other advisory services relevant to their needs and
- such other means as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

You will find the specific duties of a trustee outlined in the Role Profile available to download from the Salisbury Foodbank website, <https://salisbury.foodbank.org.uk/learn/join-our-board/>

Time Commitment

You will need to be able to commit to a minimum of 6 full Trustee meetings a year, which are held in the evenings as well as the planning and liaison required ahead of each meeting. There may also be the occasional need to be involved in special projects and sub-committees on an ad hoc basis.

All trustees are asked to attend events to promote the work of Salisbury Foodbank as well as making visits to the warehouse to familiarise themselves with its operation. You may be asked to represent the Foodbank at local publicity events, meetings with other local organisations and in the media. Support for these duties will be given by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Foodbank Project Manager.

The Trussell Foodbank Network (formerly known as the Trussell Trust)

Salisbury Foodbank is a member of the Trussell Foodbank Network under a franchise agreement and receives support from them in the form of policies, practices and access to the Data Collection System. Some of its Operations team are also available for help and advice. Trustees are invited to regular regional network events organised by Trussell which look at key area of interest to all.

Background information about Salisbury Foodbank

History

Salisbury foodbank was opened in 2000 as part of a small charity run from the city founded in 1997 to support street children in Bulgaria. It was set up by former Army officer Paddy Henderson and his wife Carol with a small legacy from Carol's mother, Betty Trussell.

The Trussell Trust has expanded its network of food banks to more than 420, responding to the high demand for services during a period of financial crisis. Most of these foodbanks were run by church and community groups and were set up as independent charities but part of the Trussell umbrella foodbank network.

Independent status

In November 2020, Salisbury Foodbank left management by the Trussell Trust and was set up as an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission (reg no 1190323) with its own board of trustees and responsibility for income generation. It currently employs four part-time staff (manager, admin assistant, warehouse assistant and foodbank centres manager) with all other functions such as warehouse operations, donation sorting and food parcel distribution undertaken by more than 100 active volunteers. We operate from a leased warehouse in Ashfield Road Trading Estate in Salisbury. We are still part of the Trussell Foodbank Network.



How Salisbury Foodbank works



Food donations are collected by community groups, in churches and from permanent collection points in local Tesco stores as well as some branches of Waitrose.

These donations are then sorted in our warehouse. We distribute food boxes containing three days of nutritionally balanced ambient food as well as some toiletries, household cleaning products and pet food. Our Foodbank Centres operate a "Pantry" system whereby recipients are offered an element of choice. Boxes and pantry choices differ according to family

size and dietary requirements. We also buy fresh fruit and vegetable boxes which are delivered directly to foodbank users by a local retailer.

People are referred to the foodbank by a variety of local agencies such as social services, schools, GPs, the police and other local welfare agencies and charities. At the centres, people who visit to collect food are greeted in a friendly atmosphere by volunteers who will aim to have a conversation about their circumstances so that we can check that they are able to access all the help they are entitled to or refer them on to other agencies for further assistance if necessary. We have been funding professional advisors from Citizens Advice to attend four of our Foodbank Centre sessions every week. This project is proving to be very successful.

How many people do we help?

In 2023/2024, all the food banks in the Trussell Trust network gave out 3.1 million food parcels (1,100,000 of these went to children): the highest total ever in a non-pandemic year. Salisbury Foodbank distributed boxes to 8,148 people in the 12 months up to April 2025! . We also provided additional boxes at Christmas and in the main school holidays

Who can become a trustee?

Salisbury Foodbank is committed to achieve greater diversity and welcomes applications regardless of sex, gender, race, age, sexuality, belief or disability.



There are some legal restrictions about individuals who may act as trustees of charities. Please read the information at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-disqualification> to check your eligibility before applying to avoid any embarrassment. If appointed, you will be asked to sign a Declaration of Eligibility and declare any conflicts of interest before this appointment can be confirmed.

Further information

- For further information about Salisbury Foodbank operations, please go to our website: <https://salisbury.foodbank.org.uk/about>
- Further information about Salisbury Foodbank Registered Charity can be accessed on the **Charity Commission** website <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5163821>
- Further information about the role of a trustee can be found in the guide, **The Essential Trustee** which can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>