

Foodbank user number 1

Hello, I'm from Norwich and I've had dealings with future projects since I think it was April this year, who've helped me out immensely and over Christmas they helped me out food wise, because I was financially embarrassed and I was very thankful for the food that helped me get through Christmas.

Foodbank user number 2 – what brings you to the foodbank today?

To get a food voucher because with all my rent that I have to pay out, I don't get enough for food this week.

How do you feel when you have to come to a foodbank?

I'm not bothered – I'd rather come here than go without.

Once you have received your parcel, how does that make you feel?

Happy, relieved.

Foodbank user number 3 – what brings you to the foodbank today?

Benefits basically - after Christmas I had to be sorting it all out.

A few benefit delays?

Yes.

And how do you feel when you have to come to the foodbank to get food for your family?

That's fine; I'd rather come down and get a food bank parcel than starve.

And once you've got your food bank parcel how does that feel?

I feel a lot better about it, I don't feel like we aren't going to eat or nothing like that

Foodbank user number 4 – you have used foodbank in the past, why did you have to use foodbank?

Because my relationship with my ex-partner has ended, and money, and circumstances changes with my benefits.

So you had no money coming in for a while?

No, I had to wait several weeks for my circumstances to update.

You've got two children haven't you?

Yes.

How did it feel to have to come and ask for a foodbank voucher?

Pretty nerve-racking to be fair. But if there weren't really a foodbank I'd have to try even harder to get family to come to me.

And that would have been difficult?

Yes.

Foodbank user number 5 – you’ve had to use foodbank in the past haven’t you – do you mind telling me why you had to?

I had to use foodbank because I was starting my new job at the time and I had to wait for the wages to go into my bank account after a long time, and it had to be set up, so I had to have a food parcel in between because I didn’t have enough food in the house and I had no money to buy what I needed.

Do you mind telling me how did that feel for you?

It felt demeaning, it was embarrassing, and I really didn’t like it.

What would you have done if food bank wasn’t there for you?

If foodbank wasn’t available to me, I’d have had either no food at all to last me enough until I get paid, or I’d have to relied on my family giving me hand-outs and I’d have been even more embarrassed about that.

Foodbank user number 6 – you’ve had to use foodbank before, can you tell me why?

Due to loss of employment, then having to go from JSA to ESA, delay in benefits therefore didn’t have no money to support myself on.

How did that feel having to ask for a food voucher?

Very embarrassing – because I’ve always worked and I’ve always earnt money, so I don’t really do hand-outs.

And what would you have done if foodbank hadn’t been around?

I don’t really know, I don’t really have no idea.

Foodbank user number 7 – you’ve had to use foodbank recently, would you mind telling me why you had to do that?

To help support the family really because I needed to use it to obviously survive, for me and my family.

What had happened?

Well I was getting low on money, and changes to circumstances with my job, change in benefits, just was unable to survive on the bare minimum, and was making myself into debt because of it.

And you’ve got children haven’t you?

Yes I’ve got two children, and that’s the most important thing.

How did it feel for you having to come and ask for a food parcel?

Well I've got to think of my family first, they've got to come first so I had to ask, I had no problems asking.

And what would you have done if foodbank wasn't available to you?

I'd have to borrow more money to get myself worse into debt in a situation like I'd been first put in.

Foodbank user number 8 – just recently you had to use foodbank, would you mind telling me why you had to?

We had to pay an unexpected bill, which basically put us out of pocket for food for my wife, me, and the children.

How many children have you got?

Three

So how did it feel to you to have to come and ask for a food parcel?

Kind of embarrassing, considering we sort of tried to resort ourselves onto our own money and equal it out between bills, and obviously food.

And what would you have done if foodbank hadn't been available to you?

If I had to, I suppose I'd have to go down a criminal background and probably start stealing and thieving to put food in my kids bellies, because that's basically what it's really all about, it's not about me and the wife it's about putting food in my kids bellies, and keeping a roof and their beds occupied with them.