

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Foodbanks to merge to keep supporting people in crisis**

Yate & Chipping Sodbury Foodbank will merge with North Bristol Foodbank at the end of August.

The charities, which are part of the Trussell Trust network, agreed the move in order to ensure the provision of distributing emergency food to people experiencing poverty can continue in South Gloucestershire.

The team at North Bristol Foodbank will now oversee the management of foodbank outlets in Yate, Mangotsfield and Thornbury after the project manager at Yate & Chipping Sodbury decided to retire earlier this year.

The level of signposting support and access to emergency food will remain unchanged.

Work is now underway to update referral agencies in the area of the merge and name change but both charities have stressed support is still available to people in crisis, with the number of people needing emergency food increasing year-on-year.

Between March 2018 to April 2019, the food banks combined, handed out **7,402** three-day emergency food parcels to people in crisis. A total of **3,130** of these went to children.

**Matt Dobson, North Bristol Foodbank Manager, said:**

*“No one in North Bristol or South Gloucestershire should need a foodbank’s help and we want to see an end to local people needing emergency food at all. But more and more people are finding that their income simply won’t stretch to cover the basics like food.”*

*“In order to continue to meet this need most effectively, the decision has been made to merge Yate & Chipping Sodbury Foodbank with North Bristol to provide crucial support to people facing hunger. The decision was driven by the retirement of the project manager at Yate and the team struggling to find a replacement. Since then, the two foodbank teams have worked together closely to ensure that help will continue to be available and going forwards, we will continue collecting donations and ensure emergency food continues to reach local people at risk of going hungry in South Gloucestershire.”*

*“We want to reassure people that the foodbank outlets will continue to be run by local people, for local people thanks to the generous support of our communities.”*

**Stewart North, Chair of Trustees of North Bristol Foodbank, said:**

*“Since we started in August 2012, we have been committed to partnership with local churches, schools and organisations to support those who are struggling in our communities. This vision continues as we all work together in times of uncertainty. Foodbank outlets will continue to be open in Southmead, Horfield, Lockleaze, Filton, Patchway, Yate, Thornbury and Mangotsfield.”*

Ends

**Contact:**

Matt Dobson (Foodbank manager) can be reached on [info@northbristol.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northbristol.foodbank.org.uk) or 0117 9791399 or 07772 275706

Or Stewart North (Chair of Trustees for North Bristol Foodbank) can be reached on 0117 9791399 or 07866 259848

**Notes to editor****About North Bristol Foodbank**

- North Bristol Foodbank provides three days' worth of emergency food to local people in crisis. Everyone who comes to the foodbank is referred by a frontline agency or professional, such as a Citizens' Advice worker, health visitor or children's centre.
- The foodbank opened in 2012, and in the last financial year provided 4,536 three day emergency food supplies to local people in crisis. 1,809 of these went to children.
- The foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust network.
- Find out more at [www.northbristol.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.northbristol.foodbank.org.uk)

**About Yate & Chipping Sodbury Foodbank**

- Yate & Chipping Sodbury Foodbank has provided three days' worth of emergency food to local people in crisis since 2011. Everyone who comes to the foodbank is referred by a frontline agency or professional, such as a Citizens' Advice worker, health visitor or children's centre.
- In the last financial year, the team provided 2,866 three day emergency food supplies to local people in crisis. 1,321 of these went to children.
- The foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust network.

**About The Trussell Trust:**

- The Trussell Trust is an anti-poverty charity that supports a network of more than 1,200 foodbank outlets across the UK.
- It takes more than food to end hunger. The Trussell Trust therefore does three things: supports its network to provide emergency food to people referred; helps food banks to provide on-site additional help or signpost people to relevant local charities to resolve the cause of referral; and brings together the experiences of hundreds of communities on the front line to challenge the structural issues that lock people in poverty, and campaign for long-term change so we can see a future without the need for foodbanks.
- Read more at [trusselltrust.org](http://trusselltrust.org)