



Slough Foodbank

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24th April 2023

Dear candidate,

I am writing to all candidates for councillors and politicians from all parties on behalf of Slough Foodbank to ask you to commit to working to end the need for food banks if you are elected as a councillor or MP on 4 May.

Poverty is an issue that needs action from all sides. If we want to create long-term change so that people are protected from needing a food bank in the future, we need everyone – whatever their political opinion – to get behind the change that's needed.

The number of people facing food poverty crisis in slough continues year on year.

Number of food parcels provided by Slough Foodbank in the past 5 years

2018: 2,072
2019: 4,781
2020: 6,533
2021: 7,365
2022: 9,322

Number of food parcels provided by Slough Foodbank in the 1st Quarter of 2023

Total number of food parcels:	3,186 up 54% on 2022
Number of adults:	1,917 up 50% on 2022
Number of children:	1,269 up 60% on 2022

We have just published our stats for the first quarter of 2023, and shockingly we have seen a 54% increase versus the first quarter in 2022. These figures are stark and paint a picture of the harsh reality of those in food poverty crisis in Slough and the surrounding areas. It's also a reflection of the number of families who are turning to us, with a 60% increase in the number of children. It's a pattern we don't want to see continue and one that puts huge pressure on us to meet the need in terms of volunteers and food donations required to provide the food parcels.

During the pandemic we noticed a 54% increase over 2 years, from 2019 to 2021, so to see these increases in one quarter versus the previous year is extremely worrying. It is no longer the pandemic having the effect but a deep-rooted problem where for many they just don't have enough money coming in to cover the essentials they need. That's why we're supporting the Trussell Trust's 'Guarantee our essentials' campaign, raising awareness that Universal Credit is insufficient to meet the costs of the essentials.

Will you commit to working to end the need for food banks?

I would be delighted to hear from you if you can pledge support to work to end the need for food banks, if you are elected on 4 May. If you wish to signal your commitment to this cause, please do support us on social media referencing #Sloughfoodbank or @Sloughfoodbank.

Laura Cole
Slough Foodbank Manager

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Communications & Projects Manager
On behalf of The Trustees
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