

UNITY IN POVERTY ACTION UPA

Christmas Appeal & Yearly Review

December 2022



Saying Goodbye to Mary



Mapping Christmas Provision

To us child is born and to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6



Dave Paterson
Project Manager

It's been a busy year and this Christmas and into the New Year we will be directly and indirectly offering support to some

of the poorest people in Leeds. Please do check out our latest Christmas Provision document as well as the online map which can be used to signpost vulnerable people. 2 of the biggest changes which have happened over this last year. Firstly, the cost of living has accelerated and secondly, back in the summer we said goodbye to Mary Halsey, who after 10 years with UPA has moved on to work for Forum Central. Mary has been a huge rock for the Project and has helped to both support me as project manager and done some great collaborative work out in the community. I still get to see Mary in her new job and we have no doubt that she will have a profound impact as she brings people and organisations together often in the sphere of health. From all of us here at UPA, Leeds Food Aid Network, Pray for Leeds and the Leeds Homeless Charter we want to say a **big thank you** for all her service to God, the project and to the city.



Mary Halsey
Development Worker

After over 10 years of working with UPA and helping to coordinate the Leeds Food Aid

Network and the Leeds Homeless Charter. I left my role at the end of June. Its been wonderful to see how much positive partnership has been happening with different sectors, churches and projects working together. A few highlights for me have been:

- Chairing the Migration Homeless Charter working group enabling a platform for a memorandum of understanding and joint referral pathway for Destitute Asylum Seekers seeking accommodation.
- Been part of the team producing various signposting documents including the new online food provider map and Food Resilience Tool Kit.
- Been part of the food response to the pandemic incl providing many food parcels working with We Care Leeds.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this work. I've now moved on to work with Volition / Forum Central so will still see some of you around.

Supporting initiatives with The Household Support Fund

UPA and LCCT, through chairing the Leeds Food Aid Network (FAN), has been able to allocate £470,000 to benefit over 60 food aid and item providers across the city of Leeds to support some of the poorest people during the cost of living crisis. This includes the work of churches, Christian projects, foodbanks, food pantries, community cafes and the intercultural food hub. Pic of Jacquai @ Soup and More who has benefited from Household Support.



Media Engagement regarding Ukrainian refugees



Radio Leeds interview with Andrew Edwards

In Easter following the release of a letter in support of Ukrainian refugees Dave did a piece on BBC Radio Leeds with a Ukrainian lady called Olena who is part of North Church. She has lived in Leeds for a number of years and has been helping Refugees settle in the UK. She detailed the situation her brother faced been trapped in Donetsk. Praise God that in the summer he was able to escape and come to the UK.

Throughout 2022 we have continued to support Food Aid Providers with in a range of different ways including providing Fuel vouchers, finance from the household support fund, signposting material and supporting with collecting food. We have produced 2 Christmas Food Provision Documents detailing provision at Christmas and also please see our **Leeds Pandemic Food Insecurity Response Doc.** <https://leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk/>



TESCO food collection in aid of Leeds South and East Foodbank



Food Aid Network (FAN) (Cash First)



We have worked closely with Leeds City Council and the Trussell Trust to run a Cash Grants Pilot which enabled the Leeds North and West, Leeds South and East and Wetherby Foodbanks to be able to make referrals to the Council so vulnerable people could receive cash. The pilot was presented at our last Hybrid FAN

meeting by Laura Chalmers and Grace Lawrenson (See Pic) and was presented on a national webinar to over 200 people. We have also worked with the Independent Food Aid Network to produce and distribute 15,000 cash first flyers detailing where money advice can be found such as Money Buddies, Christians Against Poverty and Citizens Advice.

Continuing Homeless Charter



We continue to oversee 4 Homeless Charter working groups, support Grass Root Groups providing food at St Anne's Resource centre, work with Groups to provide meals to Glen Garth B and B, supply items to people's houses and develop small scale befriending to support people when they are housed. Pic from the East Leeds Homeless Support Group at St Anne's.

Leeds Debt Forum Conference



UPA worked with Money Buddies, the Debt Forums, Leeds City Council and former MP John Battle to run a successful Debt Forum Conference held at the Civic Hall which focused on giving practical advice to deal with the Cost of Living Challenges.

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Coordination of City Wide Prayer



Through Pray for Leeds (P4L) we have hosted a number of prayer gatherings over 2022 including 24 hour prayer with Cornerstone Baptist, 3 prayer lunches covering the Police, Trinity Boar Lane and YWAM coming back into Leeds. The picture above is of the November citywide prayer gathering where different Church leaders led us in prayer for the city.

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