



Foodbanks and referrals

A foodbank is an organisation that distributes food (and often other essential items such as toiletries) to those who are struggling to put food on the table. These items are donated by the public and by other organisations such as local schools, businesses and churches.

If you are struggling to pay for food and need emergency food provision, your local foodbank may be able to help. A foodbank can provide a food parcel that contains three days' worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food to feed yourself and your family.

Most foodbanks in Stockport work using a referral system. This means that if you're struggling to buy food and you think you might need help from a foodbank, you can go to a local referral agency that can issue foodbank vouchers to you. The agency can also offer help to identify the cause of your crisis and provide long-term support if needed. Some foodbanks you can go to directly without the need for a referral.

Once you have been issued with a voucher, it can be exchanged for a minimum of three days of emergency food at your nearest foodbank centre. Some foodbanks offer a delivery service if you are self-isolating or are otherwise unable to leave home, however this service is on a needs-basis, so if you are able to collect, please identify which collection point is most accessible for you on the table below.

Referral routes

In Stockport, you can obtain referrals and vouchers for foodbanks by getting in touch with the following:

- The Council's coronavirus welfare hotline on **0161 217 6046**
- The Citizen's Advice helpline on their freephone number **0300 330 9073**
- The Prevention Alliance on **0161 474 1042**
- The Job Centre on **0161 429 2166**
- Stockport Homes Housing Support on **0161 474 3772**
- Stockport Homes Debt advice on **0161 217 6016** option 3
- Stockport Advice Office on **0161 217 6003** option 3

If you have been to Stockport Foodbank before, you can call **07483 115349** for a direct referral. If this is your first application, you should obtain vouchers for them using the referral agency phone numbers above.

Stockport Foodbank have a referral helpline which can be accessed on **07483 115349**, Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Chelwood Foodbank have a referral helpline which can be accessed on **0161 883 1792**, Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm.

The referral process

The referral agency will take some details from you about your needs and income to complete the voucher. They might ask you things like:

- your first name and surname, date of birth and address (ID may be needed upon collection/delivery)
- the number of adults and number of children in your household
- the nature of your crisis
- which foodbank will be used (see list below)

Taking these details from you means that the referral agency can ensure that the right amount of emergency food and other necessities is prepared, and will also mean they can offer you more help and support. For example, they may be able to check if you should be getting any benefits you're not currently claiming.

Your Local Pantry scheme

Your Local Pantry scheme by Stockport Homes is a long-term and more sustainable alternative to foodbanks and may suit you if you are not in extreme financial hardship and would prefer to have some choice over the selection of food you are accessing. Members pay a weekly fee of £3.50, and in return they can collect a pre-packaged food bag of 10 items (collection only if members are well and showing no symptoms of coronavirus), that include a mixture of non-





perishable items alongside fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled and frozen items. New members can sign up on their website: <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/>

Additional emergency food offer via the coronavirus helpline

The Council has a dedicated coronavirus helpline where additional emergency support can be discussed. This can be accessed by calling **0161 217 6046** and is available 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm on Saturdays.

The call handlers will provide advice and tell you how you can access practical support including emergency food provisions such as food parcels and food bank vouchers.

Foodbank collection points in Stockport

Foodbank	Locations	Opening hours	How service is accessed
Stockport Foodbank (The Trussell Trust)	Hazel Grove Baptist Church, Hazel Grove	Mon 12:30 – 14:30 Wed 10:30 – 12:30 Fri 11:30 – 14:30	Digital and paper referrals
	St Mark's Church, Bredbury	Tue 12:30 – 14:30	
	St Martin's Church, Heaton Moor	Mon 13:00 – 15:00 Thu 13:00 – 15:00	
	Bairstow Centre, Reddish	Thu 10:30 – 12:30 Sat 10:30 – 12:30	
	Trinity Church, Cheadle	Fri 10:00 – 12:00	
	St Philips, Offerton	Thu 11:00 – 13:00	
	Salvation Army Church, Cheadle Heath	Tue 13:00 – 15:00 Fri 14:00 – 16:00	
Chelwood Foodbanks	Chelwood Baptist Church, Cheadle	Tue 10:00 – 12:00 Weds 10:00 – 12:00 Thu 12:00 – 14:00	Digital and paper referrals
	Brinnington Community Church, Brinnington	Weds 13:00 – 15:00	
The Pantry, Marple	All Saints, Queen Street, Marple	Sat 10:00 – 12:00	Direct access
Gatley foodbank*	Bethany Church, Church Road, Gatley	Mon 14:00 – 15:00 Wed 14:00 – 15:00 Sat 09:30 – 12:00	Direct access
Shaw Heath foodbank*	Stockport Islamic Centre, Longshut Lane West, Shaw Heath	No set opening hours	Direct access, call Abbas 07818 455945 or Sham 07909 698888
Your Local Pantry (Stockport Homes)	First House, Brinnington	Thu 15:30 – 17:30 Fri 10:00 – 12:00	Membership (see above)
	Arthur Greenwood Community Centre Hipley Close, Woodley	Tue 15:30 – 16:30 Wed 11:00 – 12:00	
	Pantry at Number 5 (opposite Bridgehall Community Centre), Bridgehall	Thu 15:30 – 17:30 Fri 10:00 – 12:00	

* these foodbanks are small-scale and serve people living in their communities only