The Westminster Foodbank

- Launched in November 2011
- A church-based project located at Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6BS
- Part of the Trussell Trust network of Foodbanks (see www.trusselltrust.org/foodbank-projects)
- Receives non-perishable food donated by local individuals and organisations
- Distributes this food to people in crisis via a voucher scheme run in conjunction with front-line care agencies
- Is open on Mondays between 2 and 4pm, except for Bank Holidays, and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm

Eligibility

Any individual, couple or family resident in the Borough of Westminster who

- Cannot afford to buy food as a result of a crisis, e.g., problems with benefits, debt, large bills, etc.
- Has access to cooking facilities

Referrals

In order to refer a client to the Foodbank, an organisation must hold our vouchers. Most front-line care agencies are eligible to register with the Foodbank to distribute vouchers. Vouchers are coloured red and numbered individually to prevent photocopying and misuse. They are issued to voucher distributors in batches of 10. Voucher distributors undertake to:

- Provide the signatures of all staff authorised to distribute vouchers
- Assess the eligibility of their clients to receive vouchers
- Put in place measures to help resolve the crisis, e.g., assist with benefit applications, debt management, etc.
- Keep records of the vouchers they have issued
- Make clients aware of our opening days and times and the need for ID. Tell clients to bring a shopping trolley or similar to transport food home if the voucher covers more than one person
- Issue no more than 3 vouchers in succession to any one client, unless the circumstances are exceptional and we have agreed that further vouchers may be given.

Support provided

When a client arrives at the Foodbank with a voucher, they are offered refreshments and a listening ear, asked about their food preferences and if appropriate signposted to other organisations that may be able to help. Each voucher entitles a person to 3 days worth of nutritionally balanced food (in tins and packets) for themselves and their dependents.

Registration

If you would like to register your organisation with us, please contact us on 020 7834 1731 x 243 or foodbank@westminsterchapel.org.uk to arrange a visit to the Foodbank. Visits normally take place at 3.30pm on Mondays or 12.30pm on Thursdays. Before you visit, please take some time to consider how you will administer the voucher scheme within your organisation.