

Serving Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock

## Letchworth foodbank

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## Update on new arrangements due to Covid 19 for Referral Agents

Due to the unprecedented times the Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock Foodbank is having to change how we function.

The need for food parcels to help the most needy and vulnerable in our community has increased, we have supplied food parcels to over 200 people in a week; but donations of food has dramatically dropped due to the various restrictions; our warehouse is now extremely low on stock.

Coupled with this, many of our volunteers have had to self-isolate and self-distancing along with safe practices in our warehouse has become impossible.

## The Foodbank Management Committee and Trustees have taken the decision to stop issuing food parcels but to replace this with a supermarket card scheme.

We want to continue to support our clients and those in our community who are in need, using supermarket cards for our clients to purchase food at various supermarkets in the area is the safest way we can do this.

## From Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> we will be no longer be accepting food donations and therefore supplying food parcels.

- Referral agents can still refer clients using our referral vouchers.
- Clients will take the referral voucher to their local Distribution Centre in the normal way, opening times will remain Tuesday & Friday 10.00am to 12 midday.
- The client will be issued with a supermarket card to purchase food items at a designated local supermarket. The value of the card will vary depending on if the client is a single person, two-person household or family.

We hope all those involved with our Foodbank will continue to support us with these changes. Our mission is to serve the people in our community who are in most need. We, however, all must play our part and follow the guidance to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Thank you.