

Food Donation Needs and Beneficiary Overview

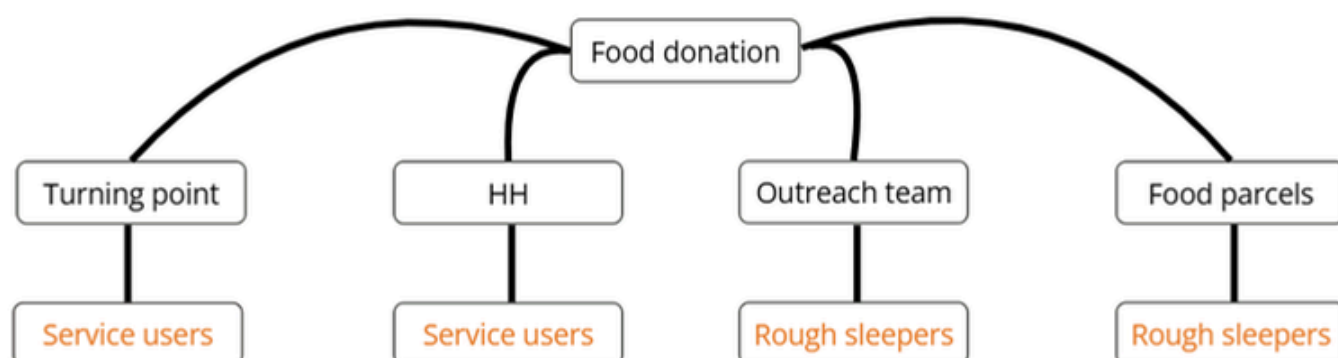
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by Caitlin Beckett, **Assistant Fundraiser**

This document provides a brief overview of the people who benefit from food donations, outlines which food items would be most useful to us at this time, and prioritises these items according to their current level of need. I hope this information will help you make the greatest possible impact for the individuals we support.

About CHESS: CHESS Homeless aims to provide high-quality accommodation and support for people experiencing homelessness. Our goal is to help clients develop the skills, confidence, and stability needed to live independently and reduce the risk of future homelessness. We achieve this through regular support sessions, well-being activities and practical assistance with paperwork, budgeting, accessing services and other necessary day-to-day admin.

Where Food Donations Go:



Outreach- CHESS provides Outreach for rough sleepers in 8 local authorities – Chelmsford, Maldon, Braintree, Rochford, Epping, Brentwood, Castle Point and Uttlesford through Street link. Once a rough sleeper is referred our team will visit the person concerned to assess their immediate needs, providing items of need for example: tinned meats, non-perishable snacks (crisps, breakfast bars), water, toiletries, tents (although these are rare). They will also offer advice and talk to them about the next steps.

Hodgkinson House (HH), New London Road- this is our main hub, there are 8 beds provided here, this has 24 hr support and is a supported step to independent living. Every night one of our dedicated volunteers makes a home-cooked meal, which is made using a mix of our donated items and fresh-ingredients.

HH Rough sleepers- the cook will make extra as we also offer rough sleepers (people currently sleeping on the street) the opportunity to get a hot meal between 7.30-9.30pm. This ranges from 12-15, daily.

Food parcels- these are made for people on either a low income or on benefits who are in our care, in supported accommodation and beginning to re-establish healthy financial habits. If one of these people has a financially tough week for example from repayment of debts they rely on CHESS to help them with food for the week. Another use for these would be when a service user moves out into independent accommodation they will also get a food parcel with the usual items and other household basics (salt, etc). We currently have 56 beds in houses and semi-supported accommodation.

We usually make a couple of boxes a week usually consisting of things like: milk, sugar, juice, snacks, jars of sauce, tinned meats, frozen pizzas.



Food parcel made for one of our residents with items like: jam, sugar, tea, squash etc.

Turning Point (TP)- this is our latest project consisting of 24 modular homes, these are self-contained rooms which have a small kitchenette, an ensuite, small living room and bedroom. This site has 24hr support, well-being support and is also the base for Outreach. Dinner is also provided here daily.



Braintree Community Meal-

CHESS has recently taken over 2 community events in Braintree. The Tuesday Coffee Morning and the Wednesday evening Community Meal. On Tuesday, they have toasties, cake and tea and coffee. On Wednesdays they provide a hot meal, homemade cakes, fresh fruit and biscuits.

These are provided for by a £100 weekly budget from the council, which is currently being stretched thin as the Wednesday meal serves 20-30 people a week.



Photo 1- Self-serve refreshment table with drinks, fresh fruit and biscuits.



Photo 2- A volunteer cooking spaghetti bolognese.



Photo 3- Our services assistant and a volunteer plating up spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread for the rough sleepers.

Below is a table with suggestions from myself and the services assistant on which stocks are running low, I have prioritised them based on a combination of how low our stock is/how much we use/what items aren't donated often.

Food Products	Urgency	Recipient
Tinned meat and fish (with ring pull)	VERY HIGH	Move-ons Service users Outreach Food parcels
Long-life (green milk)	HIGH	Move-ons HH service users Outreach Food parcels
Granulated Coffee and sugar	HIGH	Move-ons Service users Food parcels
Tinned Tomatoes/ Jars of sauce	HIGH	Move-ons Service users Food parcels
Tins of fruit and puddings	Medium	Move-ons Service users Food parcels Outreach
Unperishable snacks: Biscuits, Cereal Bars, Crisps, Crackers	Medium	Move-ons Service users Food parcels Outreach
Pot noodles/ pot porridge	Medium	Outreach

		HH Rough sleepers
Rice	Medium	Service users Food Parcels Move-ons
Bottled Water	Medium	Outreach HH Rough sleepers
Squash	Low	Service users Move-ons Food parcels
Individual juice boxes	Low	Outreach HH Rough sleepers

Toiletries/clothing: when we have stock we try and give the rough sleepers toiletries

Product	Priority	Recipient
Baby wipes/body wipes	VERY HIGH	Outreach HH Rough Sleepers Braintree Community Meal
Deodorants	HIGH	Outreach HH Rough Sleepers Braintree Community Meal
Sun cream	HIGH	Outreach HH Rough Sleepers Braintree Community Meal
General toiletries: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo	Medium	Outreach HH Rough Sleepers Braintree Community Meal
Other general toiletries: conditioner, shower-gel	Med-Low	Outreach HH Rough Sleepers Braintree Community Meal

If you have any question I would be more than happy to help.

Thank you for your support.

Caitlin Beckett

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