

TKBTC Clerk

From: A Maher (Ysgol Y Foryd) <Anwen.Maher@yforyd.conwy.sch.uk>
Sent: 27 July 2024 13:32
To: TKBTC Deputy
Subject: Foodbank

Good afternoon

I am writing to express my deep concern about the growing need for foodbanks in our community and to highlight the critical role they play in supporting those facing financial struggles impacting our children .

As we witness in particular more and more homeless families which leaves them frequently living in a hotel room with no cooking facilities , it means they are often spending a lot more money. A foodbank is essential lifelines for many of our families.

It is often brought to my attention if a child is hungry in school, and this then initiates me to have a meeting with the parents to offer support and to refer to relevant agencies . We are seeing more children more than ever hungry now and it is very worrying .

Obviously, this all still remains very confidential, but I have even had to support staff members that have come across an emergency event and then they too have struggled for money for food for their families . Poor wages and rising bill costs are affecting even working families in the area.

I am very aware of how I don't want Elaine's amazing work and Foodbank service abused . So before I ever refer I do bring to their attention that this is not a service to replace their normal weekly shop, to give them spare cash for luxuries. They are told they need to prioritise their money for food . And I also have discussed with some families that it does become a safeguarding concern if we see or hear their children are hungry or they are accessing Foodbank but then see they are spending lavishly on luxuries .

I understand there is a vision in the future for no Foodbanks . But truly feel it would be detrimental to our families if we did not have access to this wonderful service now and in the future . I refer many families each week to Elaine in the Foodbank and she works extremely well with us as a school making sure our children are being fed. I often have embarrassed parents messaging me asking for support and they don't want to have to use the Foodbank but it's a sad reflection of our struggling community as we have children going without food or parents not eating so the children can have food.

Thank you for your time , Ysgol Y Foryd families would really struggle without Kinmel Bay Foodbank.

Kind regards

Anwen Maher
Family Liaison Officer
Ysgol Y Foryd

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