



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY

20 NOVEMBER 2019

BRIEFING NOTE: The Trussell Trust – Published Statistics

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its inaugural meeting, the Scrutiny Panel agreed that it would receive published reports regarding food poverty.

2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 A report of the Trussell Trust regarding the information that it publishes in relation to the number of emergency food supplies given to people in crisis by Trussell Trust food banks is published twice a year.
- 2.2 Trussell Trust reports that between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 its food bank network distributed 1.6 million three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis, which it states is an increase of 19% on the previous year. It goes on to comment that more than half a million of these went to children.
- 2.3 Regional breakdown of the figures for 2018/2019 are also reported by Trussell Trust.

East Midlands	Adults	Children	Total
	47,3331	28,328	75,659

- 2.4 Trussell Trust advises that its statistics are a measure of volume rather than unique users, and on average people needed around two food bank referrals in the last year. It collects its data by using an online system into which food banks enter data from each food bank voucher, and the number of three-day emergency food supplies is recorded.
- 2.5 An example is provided: *"if a family of three was referred to a food bank twice in one year, this would count as six supplies on the system because*

it would reflect six instances on which a supply went to someone in the household. However, if a family of three were only referred to a food bank once, this would count as three supplies.”

- 2.6 It is highlighted by Trussell Trust that its figures cannot be used to fully explain the scale of food bank use across the UK, because our figures relate to food banks in our network and not to the hundreds of independent food aid providers. There are more than 1,200 food bank centres in its network across the UK.
- 2.7 Trussell Trust reports that the top three reasons for referral to a food bank in the Trussell Trust network in 2017-2018 were:
- Income not covering essential costs 33.11%
 - Benefit delays 20.34%
 - Benefit changes 17.36%
- 2.8 The full report can be accessed [here](#).

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the findings of the desktop research exercise informs the evidence base of the Scrutiny Review – Food Poverty