



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY

20 NOVEMBER 2019

BRIEFING NOTE: House of Commons Library – Food Banks in the UK

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 The summary of the report detailed in the House of Commons Library – Food Banks in the UK (Published 1 October 2019):

“The primary source of data on food bank use is the Trussell Trust. This national charity provides food parcels to people referred to it by professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and the Citizens Advice who meet certain requirements. Other charities also operate food banks or similar services, but there is no centrally collected data on them, except in Scotland. The data used here is mostly from the Trussell Trust, and so it should be considered incomplete – there are some areas where the Trussell Trust does not operate, but where other services may have delivered food parcels.

This briefing has sections on:

- *The 2000 food banks in the UK, of which 1,200 are run by the Trussell Trust and 800 are independent*
 - *Food parcel distribution statistics including the 19% rise from April 2018 to March 2019 in Trussell Trust figures*
 - *Regional data; the North West being the part of the UK where the largest total number of Trussell Trust food parcels are distributed*
 - *Food banks and parcels in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with Scottish independent food banks being available in addition to Trussell Trust statistics, permitting a more complete picture*
 - *Government introduction of food insecurity indicators, following an announcement made in February 2019*
 - *Other food aid provision, such as meal providers, social supermarkets and initiatives aimed at school children”*
- 2.2 The Briefing Paper makes specific reference to the research undertaken by the Trussell Trust, a briefing note detailing its research is contained in an earlier agenda item of this meeting.
- 2.3 A copy of 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:

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29 October 2019