



# EDINBURGH FOOD PROJECT

## Cash First Communities

March 2024

# An Edinburgh without poverty, where everyone has what they need to thrive.



## Relief

To offer dignified immediate relief to people experiencing poverty

Food  
Other Everyday  
Essentials



## Support

To offer support and advice to people experiencing poverty

Money Advice Service  
Other Advice and  
Support



## Change

To advocate for societal change

Promote  
Share  
Lead

# 2018 Research

- 88% of people accessing the foodbank believe they are suitable places to host advice and support services
- More than half of people accessing the foodbank say they are not receiving expert help with their problems
- People accessing the foodbank urgently want and need help to maximise income from benefits. Clients identified benefits issues as both immediate triggers for their foodbank use and underlying causes.
- people accessing the foodbank also want help with debts, especially issues with energy bills.

# What MAS do

The Money Advice Service is a free, impartial and confidential service, tailored to meet people needs

- Applying for benefits, including appeals and tribunals
- Budgeting support
- Applying for and issuing cash grants
- Personal debt advice
- Tailored support

We have 6 FTE Welfare Right Advisers, 3 FTE Support Officers and 1 MAS Manager.

- Triage helpline
- Drop in at foodbank centres
- Attendance at EFP hosted community events

# The difference they make

- Secured over £357,000 (YTD 2324) in financial gains
- The highest financial gain for one person was over £25,000 and an average of £1,769 per person.
- 70% of people who connect with MAS receive a financial gain
- Over 130 people received £150 energy cash grants

“I have a passport now and birth certificate. I won my appeal for PIP. I expect a call so I can say thanks so it would be nice to speak to you. But a massive thanks to you and EFP”

# What is next

- Joining up the data to see the long-term impact
- Telling the stories
- Using our experience to advocate for change
- Expanding the service to support the other TT foodbanks in Edinburgh

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