



Cash first communities

South West Challenge Poverty
Week online event

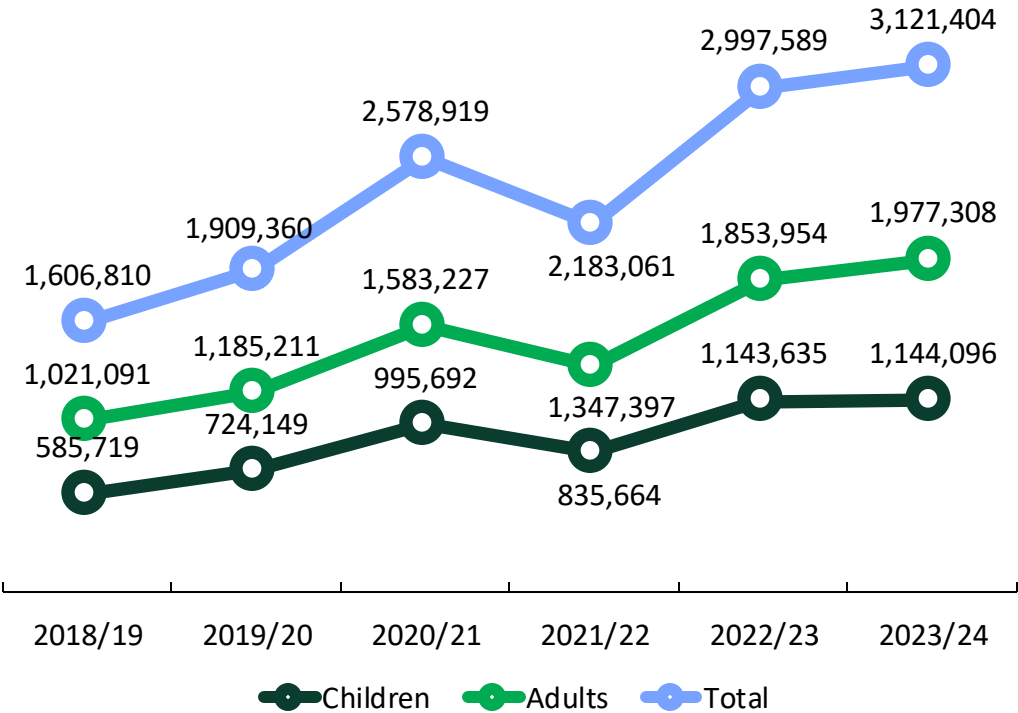


Emergency food provision is an alarming tip of the iceberg

A record 254,974 emergency food parcels provided by Trussell food banks in the South West during 2023/24, an increase of 84% compared to five years ago.

But emergency food support is a last resort – need goes far beyond what we see at food banks.

Number of emergency food parcels given by food banks in the Trussell network in the last five years



A record number of people are facing hunger and hardship across the UK

9.3

million people face hunger and hardship across the UK. This is a 39% increase since 2002/03 (46% increase for children).

425,000

more people are projected to face hunger and hardship by 2026/27 without change.

39%

of people in families receiving Universal Credit face hunger and hardship – with social security failing to protect people.

Hunger isn't about a lack of food.
It's about a lack of income.

We all need
enough to afford
the essentials



Making our social security system fit for purpose

- Introduce a protected minimum floor in Universal Credit
- Uprate Local Housing Allowance in line with affordable local rents
- Stop plans to rollback support for disabled people by tightening the Work Capability Assessment.



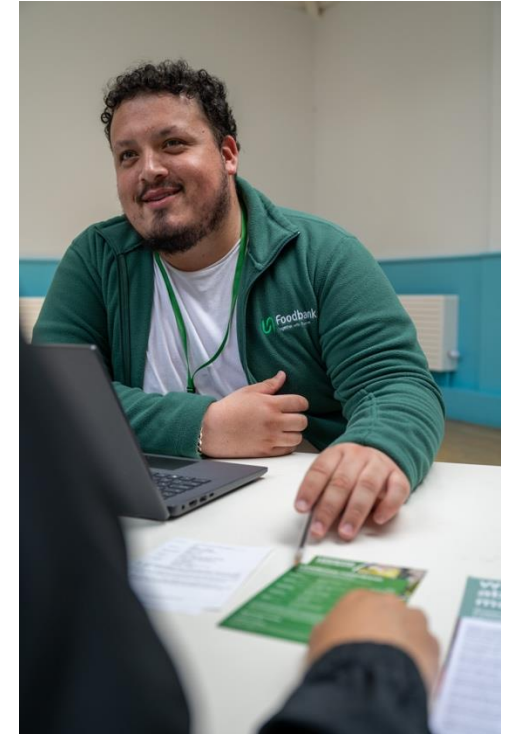
A long-term strategy and funding for local crisis support

- Short-term funding rounds have limited the effectiveness of the Household Support Fund.
- Every local authority in England should have a scheme where people facing immediate hunger and hardship can receive **cash-first support** to get them back on their feet.
- Future of local welfare and crisis support inquiry launched to help shape proposals for long-term approach.



Money matters advice that makes a difference

- Local crisis support schemes should be connected to wider advice and support to **make it less likely someone will need crisis support again.**
- National and local government should **address the funding gaps** in advice services.
- Advice services should prioritise people facing hunger and hardship **before they need to use a food bank.**



Find out more:

[evaluating the advice services provided by food banks](#)

Thank you!

trussell.org.uk

   [trussellUK](#)

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