

'Poverty is the deprivation of opportunity'

Amartya Sen

Attempting solutions to the current poverty crisis impacting food banks





Jump to postcode.

Attributions

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Map Layers

Narthex History

Narthex started out of the Church of St John's located in the centre of Sparkhill, Birmingham in 2002, and in response to high numbers of people coming to its doors for poverty relief.

Today, it operates a large food distribution hub supplying foodbank satellites across south and east Birmingham, a clothing and resource centre, and debt and generalist advice services for clients accessing the foodbanks.

We currently support over 20,000 people per year.



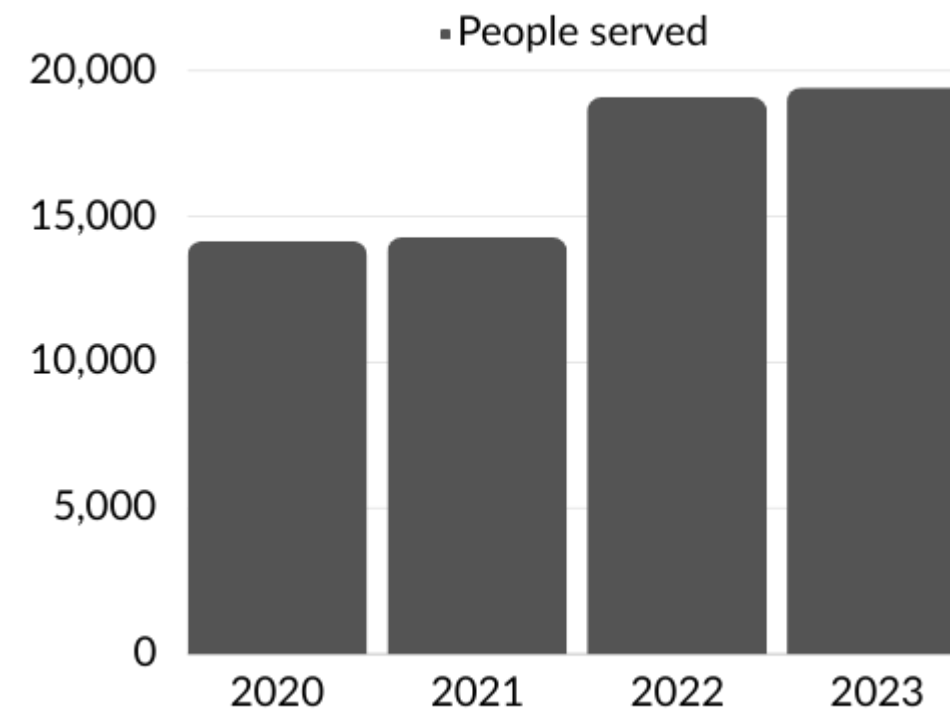
resourcing those in need or crisis

**224,300 FAMILIES IN
BIRMINGHAM TO RECEIVE COST
OF LIVING PAYMENTS WORTH
£900**

The Problems

The demand on food banks continues unabated and outstrips the availability of resource to meet need.

Significant numbers of people are becoming 'stuck', with regular and long term reliance on food banks



Initial / short-term

Semi-dependent

Fully-Dependent



Poverty Food Provision in Birmingham



What is Poverty?

"The wealthy (us) tend to see poverty as a lack of material possessions."

"Poor people typically talk in terms of shame, inferiority, powerlessness, humiliation, fear, hopelessness, depression, social isolation, and voicelessness."

Who Are the Poor?

“...every human being is poor...”

"until we embrace our mutual brokenness, our work with low-income people is likely to do far more harm than good."

“We sometimes unintentionally reduce poor people to objects that [we] use to fulfill [our] own need to accomplish something.”

Possible Solution



Stop handing out 'fish-finger sandwiches',
teach them to fish!

**Initial /
short-term**

Set a target of 6-8 weeks to
move out of food bank

**Semi-
dependent**

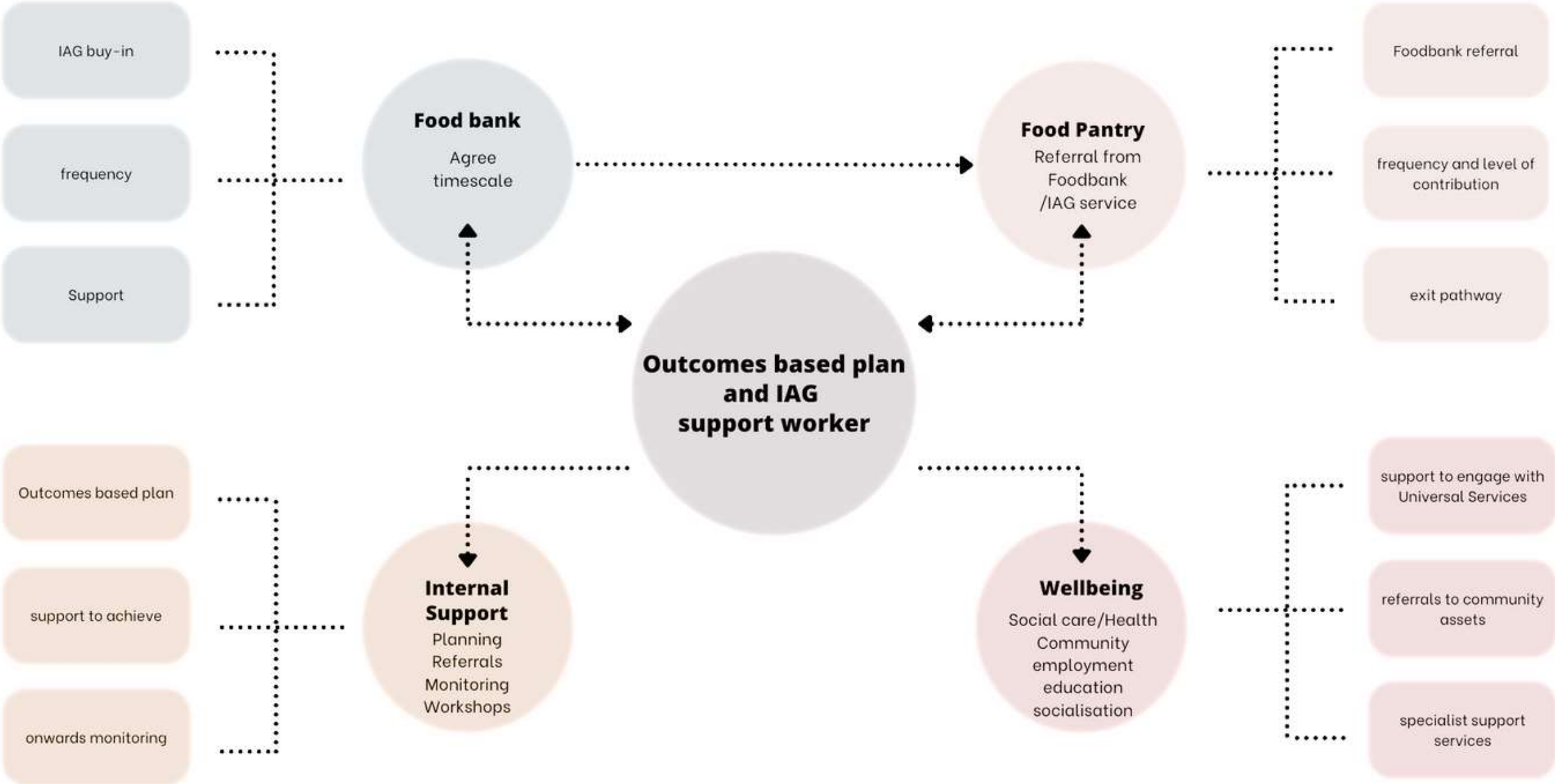
Target 3-9 months

**Fully-
Dependent**

12 months plus

Service Overview

From surviving
to thriving



Service Categories



- Advice on Housing Options
- Appeal/Review Request
- Eviction Notices
- Help with Housing Login
- Homelessness Login/Bidding Issues
- New Application BCC/Other (Housing Matters)
- Registration with Housing Association
- Report/resolve dis-repair
- Review of Housing Decision

Housing



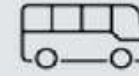
- Benefits Calculator
- Entitlement Check
- Claims:
 - Bereavement
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Housing Benefit
 - Income Support
- DHP Email Discussion/Query
- Council Tax Support
- Maternity Allowance
- MR and Appeals
- New Style JSA/ESA
- NINO App Other (Benefit Matters)
- Pension Credit/State Pension Queries and appeals
- Sure Start:
 - Maternity Grant
 - Vouchers

Benefits



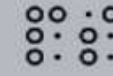
- Adult Social Care
- Carers Grant
- Childrens Services
- Children's Trust
- Domestic Abuse/Women's Aid
- Family Law Immigration Advice
- Interview Skills
- CV Writing
- Job Searches
- Legal Housing Advice (Shelter)
- Occupational Therapy
- Mental Health/Medical

Signposting



- Mobility Applications:
 - Blue Badge
 - Disability Road Tax
 - Disability Bus Pass
 - School Bus Pass
- Education:
 - Application assistance
 - Language Support

Mobility and Education



- Applications:
 - MR Attendance Allowance
 - Carers Allowance
 - Child DLA New Claim/Review
 - PIP New Claim/Review
 - Appeals
- Disability Benefit Eligibility Check
- UCS0/ESAS0

Disability



- Immediate Resources referral
- Energy efficiency tips
- Fuel Tariff Switch
- Meter Switch
- Utility Issues
- Client Advocacy with utility companies
- Grant Applications:
 - Utility Bills
 - Fuel Poverty
 - White Goods
 - Household Items

Financial Support



- Benefit Overpayment reclaim
- DRO/Court Notice Support
- Council Tax Issues
- Utilities Debt
- Income and Expenditure planning
- Debt Restructuring/Repayment plan
- Rent Arrears

Debt



Project Deliverables



Food Bank

20,000 -----> 15,000 within 12 months

Information Advice & Guidance

To achieve 75% engagement with IAG support.

To establish a training programme to provide skills development and work-placement to support entry to the workplace.

Food Pantries

To establish 2 pantries in 2024 and 2 further pantries in 2025

Community Engagement

To provide the facilities, opportunities and support for community led initiatives to address underlying issues creating food poverty

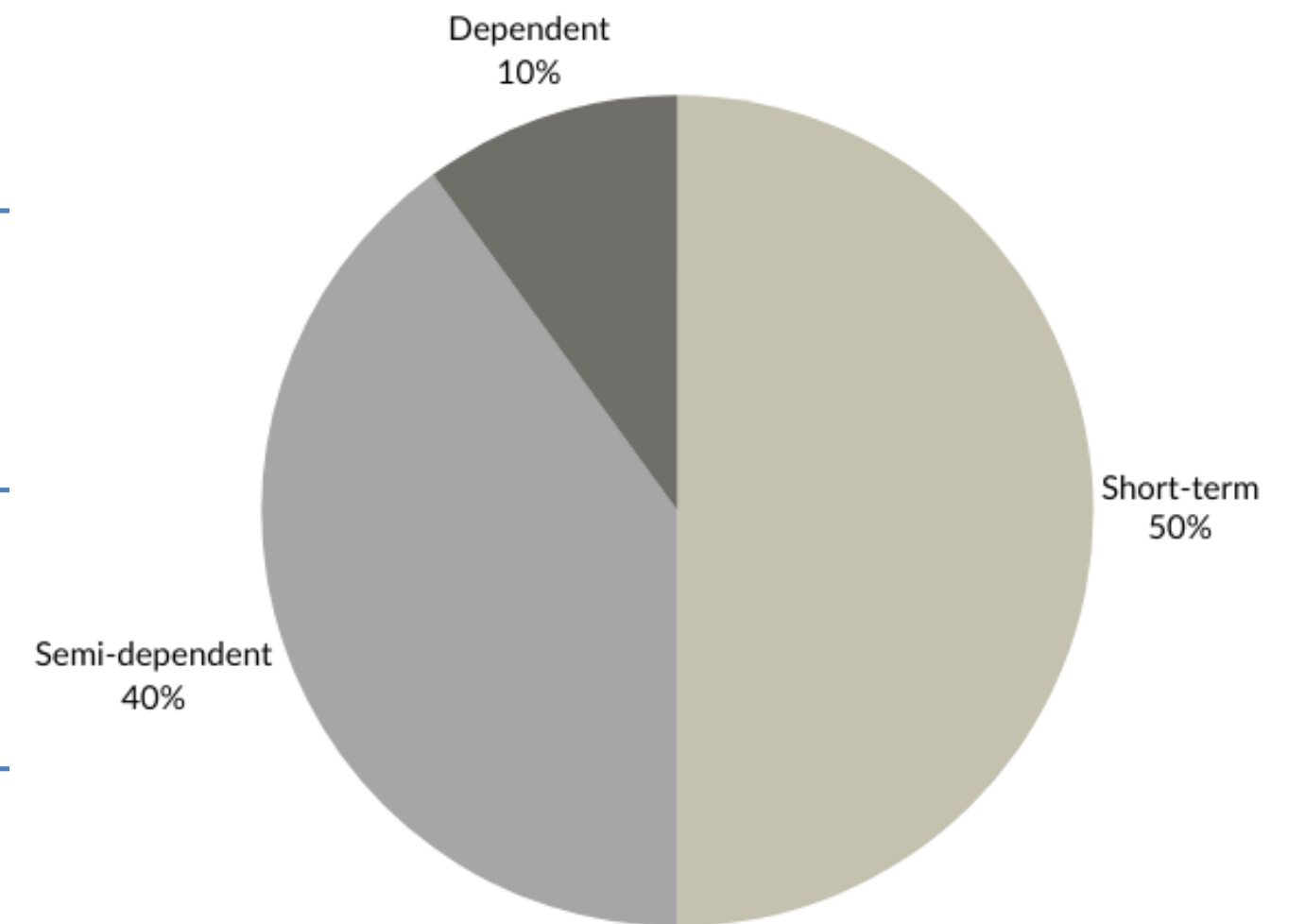
Project evaluation

Direct comparison between food banks with no pantry and those operating a pantry alongside

Identification of key themes impacting those experiencing poverty

Identification of hidden issues

Long-term impact on outcomes for people after intervention



Campaigning and Increasing Awareness



~~resourcing those in need or crisis~~

“Lifting someone up starts with listening to them.” –
Unknown

“The best way to lift someone up is to help them stand on their
own two feet.” –Unknown

The Role of the Community Campaigner

Key Objectives

- Reduce the dependency on Food banks
- To support community resilience
- Better long-term outcomes for clients

Key Goals

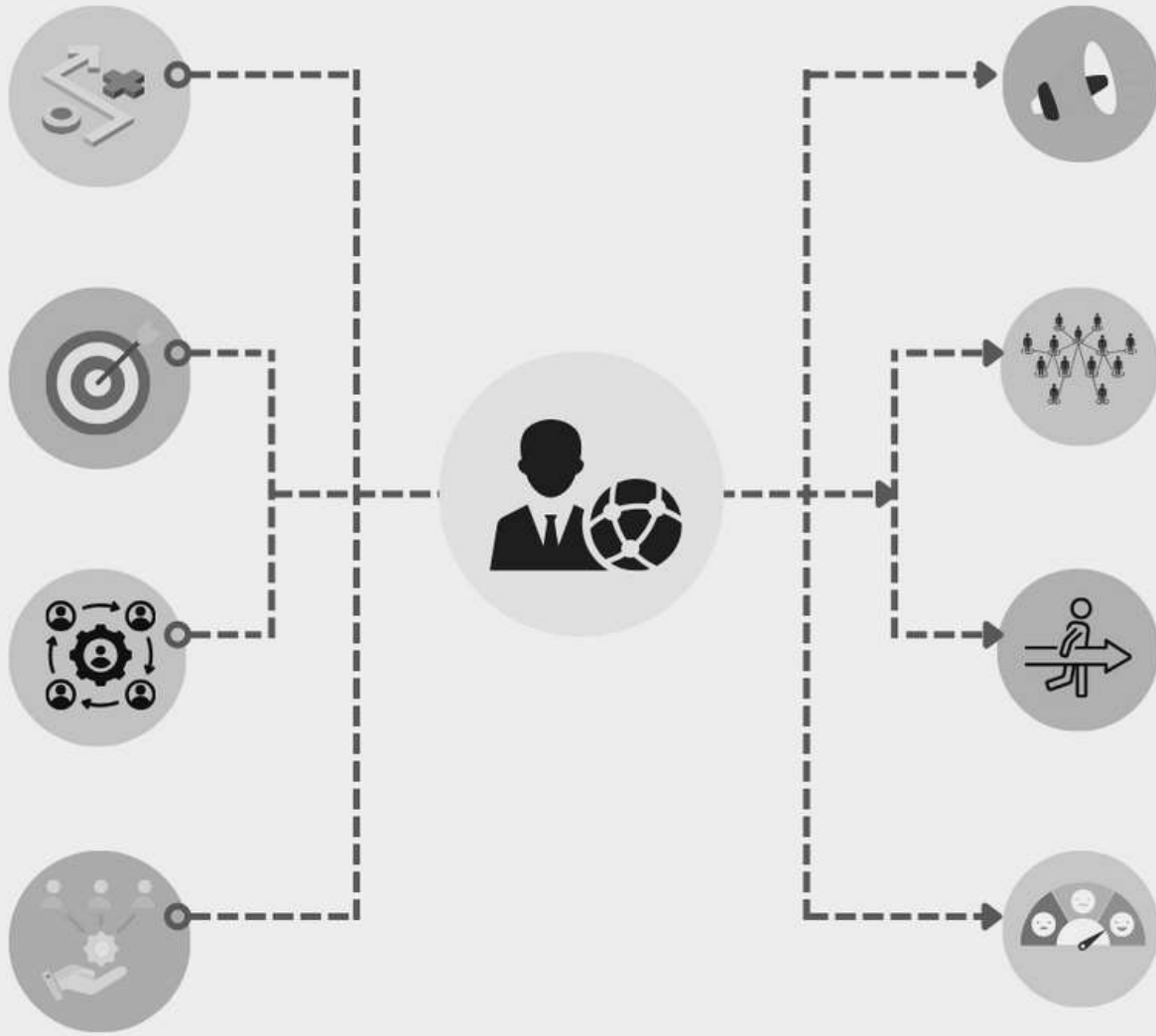
- To bring attention to the issues creating long-term reliance on emergency food
- An effective wraparound service improving long-term outcomes for people
- To support other community initiatives, greater community resilience

Internal Stakeholders

- Food Bank and satellites
- Community engagement
- Money and debt advice service
- Volunteers

External Stakeholders

- Community organisations
- Partner/peer organisations
- Funders
- Civic organisations
- Faith organisations
- Clients



Campaigning

- Awareness of issues
- Support of existing appropriate campaigns
- Support of TT National Campaigns within local context

Networking

- Development of the organisations networking initiatives
- Increased support of other Birmingham Foodbanks

Forward Representation

- Relationship development with civic and community organisations
- Promotion of organisation’s strategic approach to strength based support

Evaluation

- Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of success of project
- Recommendations for ongoing development

As a registered charity and currently supporting over 20,000 people per year Narthex aim to bring this number down by offering a holistic approach to overcoming challenges and tailoring their services to empower individuals and families to emerge from crisis and build fulfilling lives.

Narthex – Journey to Change