GRANTHAM FOODBANK CIO

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1195874

GRANTHAM FOODBANK CIO

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GRANTHAM FOODBANK CIO

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Registration Number: **1195874**

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1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: Grantham Foodbank CIO

Charity registration number: 1195874

Registered office:
Unit 1–2 Grey Friars
Grantham
NG31 6PG

Governing document:
Grantham Foodbank CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution dated 21 Sep 2021.

Trustees who served during the reporting period of 2025:

Chair of Trustees: Hannah Grivell (retired 2025) then Wendy Bentley
Treasurer: Michelle Feasey
Vice Chair: Jackie Gonzalez
Trustee: Pravina Chohan (appointed 2025)
Trustee: Samantha Campbell (appointed 2025)
Trustee: Jonny McDonnell (retired 2025)
Trustee: Matthew Beniston (retired 2025)

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2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Structure and governance

Grantham Foodbank CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation established for the prevention or relief of poverty in Grantham and surrounding areas.

The CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 21 September 2021.

The charity is supported by member churches in Grantham and the surrounding area. Membership arrangements are governed by the charity's Constitution.

The CIO has voting members in addition to its charity trustees. Membership is open to churches in Grantham and the surrounding area in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. On 31 December 2025 there were 17 member churches.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the charity's Constitution.

Under Clause 13 of the Constitution, all charity trustees retire from office at the third AGM following registration of the CIO and at every subsequent third AGM. Trustee appointments and reappointments are decided by the members at the relevant AGM. Between these AGMs, new charity trustees may be appointed to replace trustees who have retired mid-term or been removed in accordance with the Constitution, by the members or the existing trustees. Trustees appointed in this way retire at the next AGM at which elections are due. There must be at least three charity trustees, but there is no maximum number that may be appointed by the CIO.

The board of trustees seeks to maintain an appropriate range of skills and experience to enable it to govern the charity effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are provided with information concerning the charity, their responsibilities as trustees and the operation of Grantham Foodbank. This is done via meetings with the Chair of Trustees and other trustees as necessary. New trustees are given a copy of the charity Constitution, in which the functions and duties of charity trustees to exercise his or her powers to further the purposes of the CIO are discussed (Clause 12). New trustees are also given a copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

Additionally, trustees have access to guidance and training provided by the Trussell Trust, an antipoverty charity and community of foodbanks, via online seminars and training modules, and trustees have the opportunity to attend any of the Trussell Trust's Forums or the annual regional Roadshow.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity.

The day-to-day operation of the Foodbank is managed by the Foodbank Coordinator, who is responsible to the trustees.

During 2025 the Foodbank was supported by a team of about 50 volunteers undertaking front-of-house, warehouse, administration, and other activities.

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3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable purposes

The charity's purpose, as set out in its Constitution, is:

"The prevention or relief of poverty in Grantham and surrounding areas in particular but not exclusively by providing emergency food supplies to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty."

Grantham Foodbank seeks to fulfil this purpose principally by providing emergency food to people experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship.

The Foodbank operates through a referral system. Individuals are referred by a range of local organisations which assess their circumstances and identify a need for emergency food support.

Referral agencies include local schools, churches, NHS surgeries, mental health services, housing services, probation services, homelessness services and other organisations supporting people in need.

The Foodbank normally provides emergency food sufficient for approximately three days of meals, recognising that people referred to the service may have little or no food available to them and may have insufficient funds to purchase food.

The trustees held an annual planning day in October 2025 to plan our activities for the upcoming year. When planning activities the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

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4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In 2025, Grantham Foodbank continued to provide emergency food support to meet the steady demand of local people experiencing food insecurity. We are only able to do this through the generosity of our local supporters, whether they be individuals, churches, schools, community groups, businesses, and volunteers.

The following figures are taken from the Trussell Trust's Data Collection System (DCS).

Demand for emergency food

In 2025 Grantham Foodbank fulfilled **3,734 food vouchers**. These vouchers represented **7,489 individual food parcels**, with each parcel representing the food provision recorded for one person within a referred household. The total number of vouchers in 2025 was roughly in line with the number fulfilled in 2024 (3,967).

Of the vouchers fulfilled, **30.4% (1,135)** related to households with children, while **69.6% (2,599)** related to households without children. Of the individual food parcels recorded, **57.2% (4,283)** related to people within households that included children. This difference reflects the larger number of people within households with children.

Donations and purchases of food

The continued demand for emergency food parcels occurred against a background of steady pressure on the charity's resources. In 2025, **46,337.1 kg of food was donated**, broadly in line with the **46,446.5 kg donated in 2024.** However, whilst demand was steady, purchases

represented an increased proportion of stock into our warehouse relative to the previous year. In 2025, **37,468.4kg of food was purchased,** representing **45% of total food stock in**, compared with **27,912.8 kg (36%) in 2024**. The 2025 figure was affected to some extent by the timing of a large end-of-year purchase and stock levels held at the year end.

Stock weighing **74,796.8 kg was distributed in 2025**, roughly in line with our 2024 figures.

During 2025 we introduced fresh fruits and vegetables into our parcels, including carrots, parsnips, apples and bananas. Fresh milk, cheese and spreads were also provided in the food parcels, along with fresh eggs. We are grateful to the NFU for their donation which allows us to purchase local produce. We also have benefitted from our ongoing relationship with Pilgrims, who continued to support us with a regular supply of frozen chicken/turkey meal options. We were pleased to be able to continue to distribute bread supplied by local stores and bakeries, and we received donations of pet food through donations and drives conducted at Pets at Home and donation boxes located at Grantham stores, Chandlers and Downtown.

The trustees continued to carefully monitor both demand for food parcels and purchasing. During the year the trustees decided that the Foodbank would no longer purchase toiletries from its own funds. Toiletries remain items which clients may need and request, and donated toiletries continue to be distributed when available. The decision was made to ensure that the charity's funds remained focused on its core charitable purpose of providing emergency food.

The trustees also began considering how funds could be used most effectively to achieve nutritious parcels and increase the proportion of fresh food received through local donations, whilst ensuring appropriate parcel quantities.

Referral arrangements

During 2025 the trustees reviewed the Foodbank's referral arrangements in response to sustained demand for food parcels along with a significant number of clients making repeated visits over an extended period. The trustees were concerned to ensure that the Foodbank remained available to people experiencing genuine emergency need, while also managing the sustainability of the charity's resources.

In **2025, the rising costs of essentials** was one of the reasons given for a referral to the Foodbank in **43.71%** of the cases. The **ongoing impact of physical and mental health** was listed as another reason for referral in **14.78%** of cases. These figures were broadly in line with referral reasons given in 2024. For clients being referred to the Foodbank more than three times within a six-month period in 2025, agencies cited **long-term health conditions** as a reason in **13.01%** of cases, again roughly in line with the previous year. However, in 2025 **low income** was given as a reason for more than three referrals in a six-month period in **53.76%** of cases, up from **29.18%** in 2024.

In 2025 changes in procedures meant that Jobcentre Plus, one of our more frequent referring agencies, was no longer able to ask clients the questions necessary to make a qualitative referral. In consultation with Trussell Trust and in line with other foodbanks in the Trussell community, Jobcentre Plus ceased to be a referring agency for us from 1 June 2025. Clients who would have previously sought a referral from JobCentre Plus were instead referred to any of the

other referring agencies available in our local area, or they could access the telephone line 'Help Through Hardship' service, which could make referrals following a questionnaire.

The Foodbank subsequently reviewed its relationships with other referring agencies, updating our referral agency contacts and details, and providing training to help ensure that referrals appropriately identified need and that clients could be connected with other sources of support where appropriate.

The Foodbank also updated our guidance to referring agencies that clients would normally be able to access the service up to six times within a six-month period. Understanding there are many factors causing extended food insecurity, referral agencies were encouraged to liaise with the Foodbank when they had a client needing ongoing support from Foodbank, with the Foodbank Coordinator empowered to adjust the voucher limit on a case-by-case basis.

Improving the client experience

The trustees recognise that people who come to the Foodbank may already be experiencing difficult and stressful circumstances. During 2025 the trustees therefore began work to improve the experience of clients while continuing to provide effective emergency food support.

A trustee strategy day held in **October 2025** considered how the Foodbank could develop its approach to client support. Trustees considered research into foodbank provision, including *Reinventing Foodbanks* by Katie S. Martin, and explored the potential benefits of providing clients with greater choice.

The trustees recognised that having some choice in the food received can contribute to dignity and empowerment and may also reduce food waste by allowing people to select products that are appropriate to their circumstances.

This work subsequently led to planning for a series of volunteer workshops, client feedback and the development of a greater-choice approach to take place in 2026.

During 2025 the Foodbank also considered how the experience of receiving emergency food could be made more welcoming. A Trussell Trust workshop was held at the Foodbank for volunteers to consider how we could provide a more relaxed environment for clients.

FINANCIAL REPORTS SECTION–

The trustees continued to monitor the charity's financial position carefully during 2025, with particular attention to the relationship between income, expenditure and the increasing proportion of food that needed to be purchased to meet continued demand.

The charity remained financially able to continue its charitable activities during the year. The trustees sought to ensure that expenditure was carefully controlled and that the charity's funds were used effectively in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

The charity's principal sources of income continued to be donations from individuals, churches, community groups, businesses and other supporters. The trustees are grateful to all those who contributed financially during the year.

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 provide further details of the charity's income and expenditure and its financial position at the year end.

In previous years the Charity placed a financial value on the donations received, however, following a review of other foodbanks this did not seem to be standard accounting policy. Therefore, we have not done this for 2025, and have restated the 2024 accounts to reflect this change in accounting policy

Summary accounts attached

Grantham Foodbank CIO
Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2025

			2025			2024	
			£	£		£	£
Financial donations:							
	Churches		5831			3013	
	Regular donors		23898			19103	
	One-off donors		10625			20116	
	Other Charities		7521			16920	
	Grants (unrestricted)		9590			9543	
	Businesses		11980			12617	
				69445			81311
Other income:							
	Gift aid tax reclaimed		581			579	
	Fundraising activities	1046					
	Costs of fundraising	-65	981				
	Interest income		7462			9026	
				9024			9605
Total income				78469			90917
Less purchased out of financial donations				(44590)			(40631)
Gross surplus of income over expenditure				**33879**			**50285**
Expenditure:							
Co-ordinator wages and pension costs				23843			21938
Premises costs:							
	Rent		10000			10000	
	Elec, Gas and phone		6483			6745	
	Water, waste removal and cleaning		2675			1809	
	Insurance		1680			1707	
	Repairs and renewals		1050			7046	
				21888			27307
Printing, stationery & computer costs				1449			980
Motor expenses				2440			3044
Vehicle depreciation				2079			2772
Professional and legal fees				558			850
Marketing and training				571			337
Bank charges				193			178
Other expenses				946			1484
				53967			**58889**
Surplus or (deficit) of income over expenditure (unrestricted funds)				**(20088)**			**(8604)**
Restricted income and expenditure							
NFU Fresh food donation			7899			6509	
fresh food purchased			(5414)			(6070)	
Financial inclusion grant received			37268			36953	
Financial inclusion advice service			(25470)			(12917)	
				14283			24475
Total surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure				**(5805)**			**15872**
Reserves brought forward				257444			241572
Reserves carried forward	Unrestricted funds	132807			152203		
	Designated funds	75000	207807		75000	227203	
	Restricted funds		43832			30241	
				251639			**257444**

Grantham Foodbank CIO
Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2025

Reserves balance			**251639**		**257444**
Represented by:					
Bank and cash balances	Unrestricted	201570		209514	
	Restricted	43832		30241	
Refridgerated van		6237		8316	
Creditor				(627)	
Prepaid rent				10000	
			251639		**257444**

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13 Locks Close
Deeping St James
Peterborough
PE6 8RA

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Grantham Foodbank CIO Accounts Period Year 2025 Charity Number: 1195874

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year to the 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Charities Act have not been met, or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Carl Midgley ACIB
CTax Management
15th September 2026