Ringwood Foodbank

Together with Trussell

Serving Ringwood, Fordingbridge & Verwood areas

Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity Number 1206403

Trustees Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2026

The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) ("Accounting and Reporting by Charities") in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Reference and Administration Details

Name of Charity: Ringwood Foodbank

Registered Charity number: 1206403

Registered Address: Ringwood Foodbank, Unit 10a, Forest Corner Farm, Hangersley, Ringwood, BH24 3JW

Principal Operating Address: Ringwood Foodbank, Unit 10a, Forest Corner Farm, Hangersley, Ringwood, BH24 3JW

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC

Trustees:

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2026 were as follows:

The Charity's Trustees	Office held	Term of Office
Mr Chris Lee	Chair resigned 24.11.25	5.1.24 – 24.11.25
Mr Peter Vandervelde	Chair	16.2.26 – 16.2.27
Mrs Patricia McAleer	Safeguarding Officer	5.1.24 – 31.8.25
Mrs Claire Skelley	Volunteer Co-ordinator	5.1.24 – 27.10.28
Mrs Anita Steel	Secretary & Vice-chair	5.1.24 – 5.1.28
Mr Jonathan Gibson	Treasurer	5.1.24 – 5.1.28
Mrs Debbie Spender	Health and Safety Officer	1.7.24 – 1.7.28
Mrs Kim Green	Safeguarding	1.7.24 – 24.6.25
Miss Catriona Duncan	Training	12.5.25 – 12.5.26
Mr Graham Willetts	Resigned due to ill health	13.10.25 – 22.11.25
Mr Philip Boyce	Safeguarding	13.10.25 – 13.10.26

In addition to the Trustees named above, the operation of the Foodbank during 25/26 was dependent on other principal post-holders:

Mrs Christine Owen	Warehouse Manager
Mrs Ali Vandervelde	Ringwood Distribution Centre Manager
Mr David Evans	Verwood Distribution Centre Manager

The Foodbank has 125 volunteers who operate the three distribution centres and the warehouse on a day-to-day basis. This includes Drivers, Shift Supervisors, Mobile larder volunteers, a Data Input Team, Referral Agent Co-ordinators, a social media and website team and graphics expert.

Structure, Governance and Management

The constitution of Ringwood Foodbank was adopted on January 5th 2024 at which point a new charity was incorporated with the Charity Commission, Ringwood Foodbank CIO, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This replaces the existing Ringwood Foodbank charity which was founded in 2013 from an idea raised by Claire Skelley and Jacqueline Brown. The Trustees of this Ringwood Foodbank became Trustees of the new charity,

When selecting individuals for appointment as Trustees, the Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Foodbank. New Trustees are co-opted for one year at which time an assessment is carried out and a decision made as to whether to invite the Trustee to continue for a full three year term. All Trustees must sign a confidentiality agreement and are DBS Checked. All Trustees give their time and skills voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

The Foodbank has supporters from many walks of life who provide donations of food, assist with food collections, donate financially and act as volunteers. It works closely with the range of churches in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood and an extended network of local front-line professionals including local Schools, Doctors' surgeries, Citizens' Advice and Social Services. The Foodbank leases two units at Hangersley for use as a warehouse. Distribution Centres are operated from the Activities Centre at Greyfriars in Ringwood, from the United Reformed Church in Verwood and The Old Laundry, Bartons Road, Fordingbridge, which was closed temporarily in January 2026.

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Objectives and Activities

The prevention or relief of poverty in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood, and the surrounding areas or such wider area as may seem appropriate from time to time by providing donations, items, and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty and in particular by providing emergency food supplies and to help those in crisis including signposting to other agencies.

The main activity undertaken by the charity is the relief of food hardship and poverty for individuals and families living in and around Ringwood, Verwood and Fordingbridge. This is achieved through the collection of ambient food products donated by individuals, schools, churches and other community groups. The food is sorted and stored and then distributed to those in need. This is done through a referral scheme with vouchers issued by a care professional who is able to assess that there is a genuine need.

The strategic objectives of Ringwood Foodbank are detailed in Full in the Chair's report below.

Ringwood Foodbank pays for the provision of fruit and vegetables from FareShare, a waste reduction charity, which are shared amongst the three Distribution Centres. Fareshare also run Mobile Larders in Ringwood and Three Legged Cross aided by Foodbank volunteers and operate a further mobile larder in Fordingbridge.

The operation of the Foodbank is entirely dependent on volunteers. All Trustees, key post-holders, managers and staff in the warehouse and distribution centre are volunteers. The Trustees wish to express their deep gratitude for the over-whelming level of support given by the people and communities of Ringwood, Verwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding areas.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees do not envisage opening further distribution centres at the current time. Ringwood Foodbank CIO is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

We have a regularly updated Facebook page (RingwoodFoodbank), Instagram account (@ringwoodfoodbank) and our website (ringwood.foodbank.org.uk). Given the current economic situation and decline in donations of both monetary and food donations a volunteer fundraiser and a Trustee are actively seeking fundraising avenues. We continue to be grateful to the local community for the generous donations of money and food. We are also relaunching the 500 club as 'Friends of Ringwood Foodbank'.

A total of 3,196 people were fed for three days in 2025/26, compared with 3,852 in the year 2024/25. This is a decrease of 17% on the previous year. Of these 70% were adults and 30% were children, which is very similar to last year. More details on this are in the Statistics report below.

A number of financial donations were received totalling £51,722 and Grants for specific projects were received totalling £51,135; these are detailed in the financial statements. The Trustees are grateful to all individuals and organisations who have given financially, as the operation of the Foodbank requires significant income to cover running expenses and projects.

Two of these grants support the work of the two Financial Inclusion Support workers employed by Citizens Advice New Forest and a further Financial Inclusion Support worker in schools in Ringwood partly funded by Stronger Together Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge ("STARF"). Much of this funding has been coming from Trussell but from June 2026 this funding will no longer be supplied.

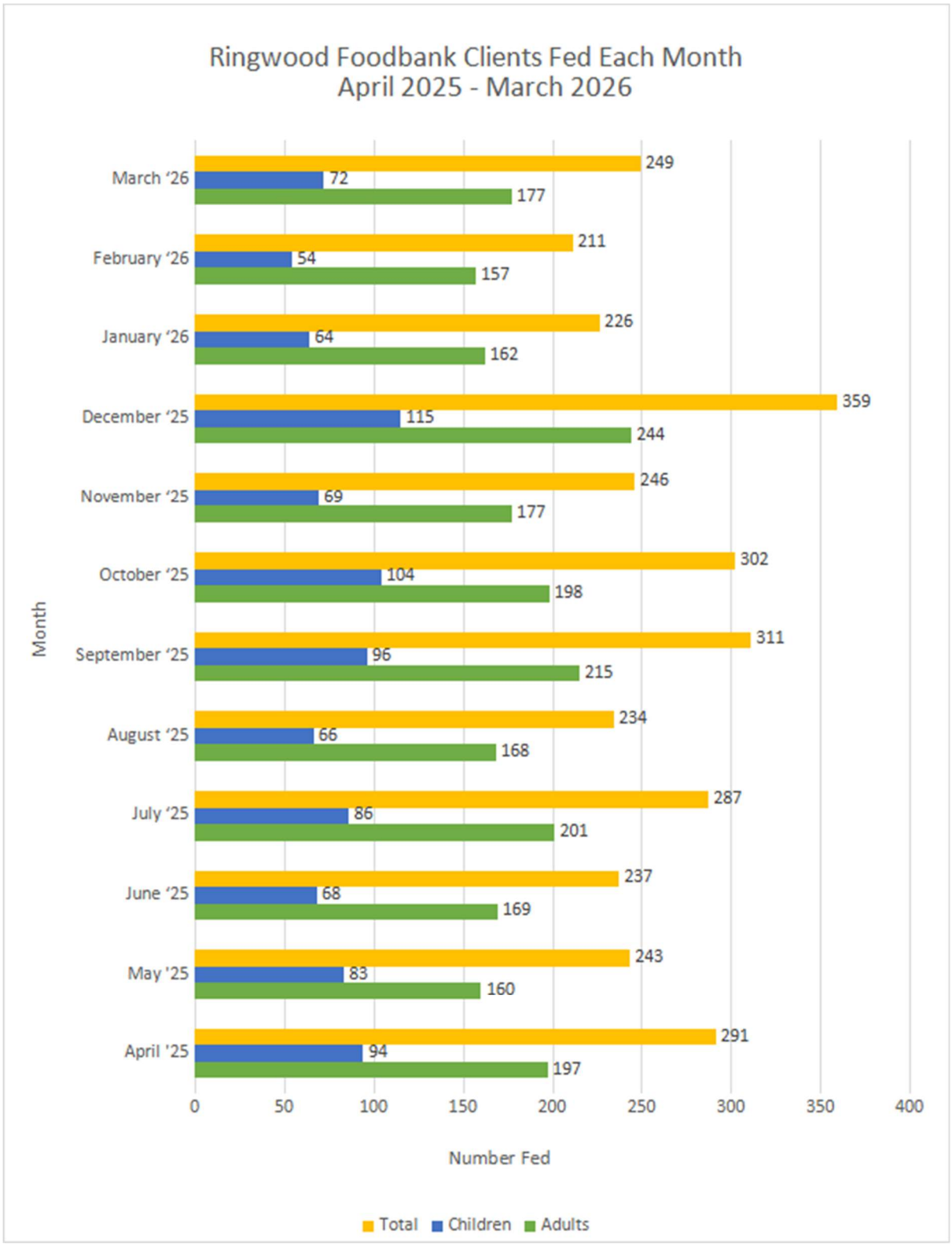
In January 2026, the Fordingbridge Distribution Centre was closed due to operational difficulties. Whilst this was a shock to the volunteers and local community the Trustees regarded this as a necessary course of action. The Fordingbridge Distribution Centre reopened in June 2026 and a new Fordingbridge manager, Steve Price, has been appointed. In the period from January to June the clients were served by Ringwood and Verwood Distribution Centres.

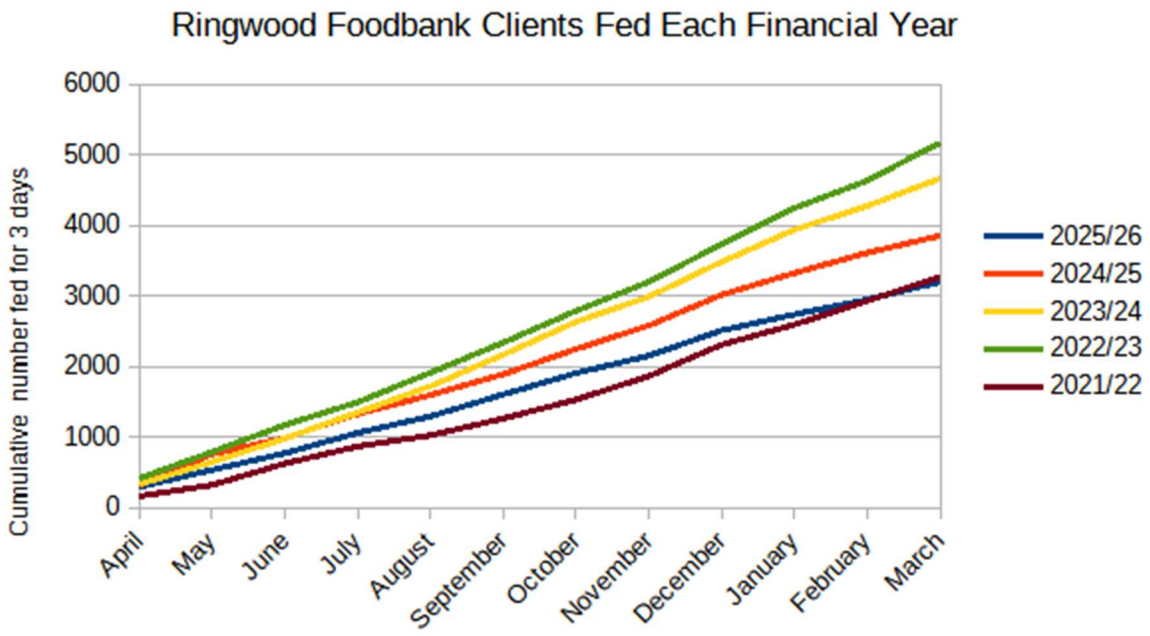
Ringwood Foodbank is grateful to local organisations, Lidl, Acts4Sharing and Price's Fish & Chip shop for their support.

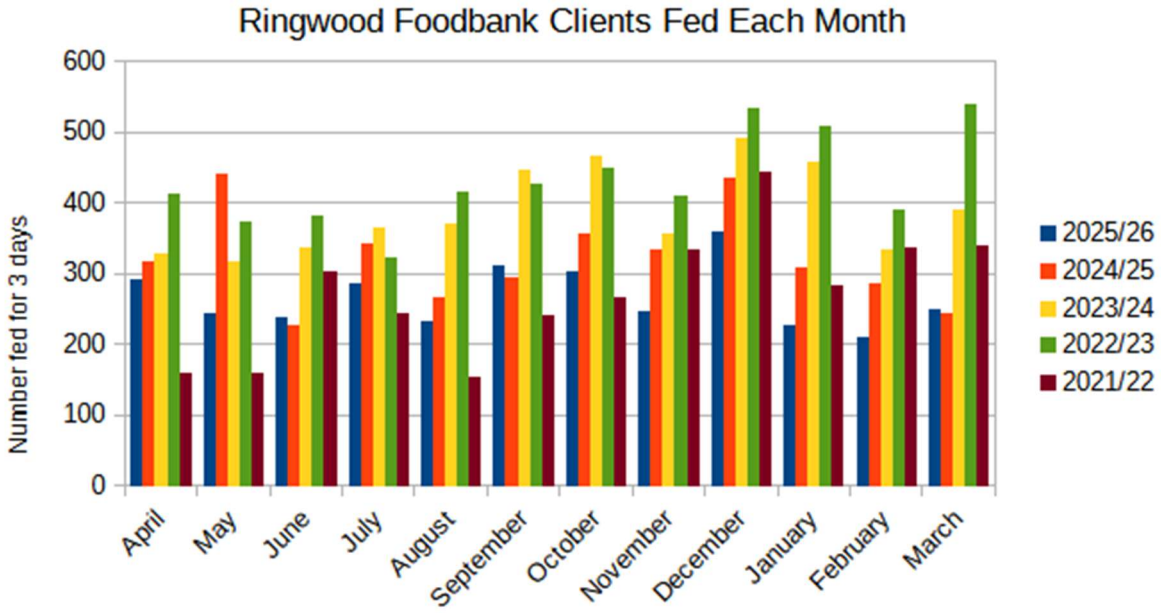
Ringwood Foodbank is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and has taken steps to ensure that it is fully compliant with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations.

Ringwood Foodbank is proud to assist with schemes which promote the reduction of food waste through the distribution of food from FareShare and accepting bakery items from Lidl in Ringwood on a regular basis.

Statistics


Ringwood Foodbank Clients Fed Each Month
April 2025 - March 2026
Month
March '26
February '26
January '26
December '25
November '25
October '25
September '25
August '25
July '25
June '25
May '25
April '25
249
72
177
211
54
157
226
64
162
359
115
244
246
69
177
302
104
198
311
96
215
234
66
168
287
86
201
237
68
169
243
83
160
291
94
197
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400
Number Fed
Total
Children
Adults





During the financial year 2025/6, 3,196 clients were fed, 656 fewer than in the previous year, a decrease of approximately 17%. This is the third consecutive year the total number fed has fallen and the total is the lowest since 2019/20. The total fed was lower than the total fed in the same month of the previous year in every month except in June, September and March when the numbers were marginally higher. As usual, December saw the highest number fed in the year, 359, whilst the lowest number was recorded in February, 211 clients. September 2025 saw the second highest number of clients fed, 311, closely followed by October, when 302 clients were fed and July when the total was 287. The number of children fed as a proportion of the total was 30% compared to 31% in the previous year and 36% in 2023/24.

Policies

Ringwood Foodbank has the following policies in place:

1. Safeguarding
2. Health and Safety
3. Donations Acceptance
4. Data Protection
5. Reimbursement for Personal Expenses
6. Lone Working
7. Financial Control
8. Management of Petty Cash
10. Equal Opportunity (Diversity)
11. Complaints and Problem Solving
12. Conflicts of Interest
13. Data Retention Policy and Schedule

These are reviewed every one or three years as agreed by Trustees..

Safeguarding

At Ringwood Foodbank we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Our policy is reviewed and updated annually, and Trustees attend training courses. We require all volunteers to ensure their behaviour and conduct is consistent with our policy. In order to maintain best practice, volunteers are sent a copy of the policy annually and asked to complete training provided by Trussell.

A copy of our safeguarding policy can be obtained by contacting us at: info@ringwood.foodbank.org.uk.

Chairman's Statement

Peter Vandervelde

I was appointed as Chair of Trustees of Ringwood Foodbank near the end of this financial year on 16th February 2026. I decided to apply for this role having been a long-standing observer of the foodbank as my mother had volunteered many years ago and my wife has volunteered for 9 years. I was hugely impressed with each of the existing Trustees that I met as part of the process and with the operation of the Foodbank. I was also mindful of the huge impact and knowledge that Chris Lee my predecessor had and that he left very large shoes to fill. Fortunately, the Trustees had divided up many of the tasks and roles that Chris had undertaken between themselves and that meant that as new Chair I had a manageable list of responsibilities.

So I am delighted to thank Chris for his work and stewardship of Ringwood Foodbank as Chair over 6 years, the Trustees for all the work and effort that they do, and to each and every volunteer. I am honoured to be Chair of such an awesome organisation and take this opportunity to acknowledge my appreciation and to repeat that the volunteers are our greatest asset.

I would remind the community that there are no paid volunteers or employees of Ringwood Foodbank and this remains unusual amongst Foodbanks affiliated to Trussell. Thank you to all our volunteers, in your wide range of roles, for all your work.

I also acknowledge and thank our communities for donations of food and cash throughout the year. We are hugely grateful to all those that have helped us help those in need.

I am also a Trustee for Stronger Together Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge ("STARF"). Like Ringwood Foodbank, STARF aims to help families who are struggling. STARF identifies and supports those families through local schools and therefore is addressing the same issues as Ringwood Foodbank albeit through a different channel.

Other changes

While the decision to close Fordingbridge DC was taken before my appointment, I am aware of what a difficult time this was for the Trustees and volunteers. The extra burden on Ringwood DC and Verwood DC and our volunteer drivers was significant. I am delighted that we have been able to reopen in June 2026. We look forward to working with the local community including the Fordingbridge Town Council and Salvation Army to fully support clients. Subsequent to this report we welcome our new manager Steve Price to Fordingbridge under who's management we successfully reopened on 17th June 2026 one day a week.

My focus as Chair is to ensure that, as well as providing emergency food to clients, we are providing solutions and support to clients to allow them to turn their lives around. Primarily we do this through our excellent financial inclusion advisers – they are Citizens Advice employees and have access to CA services, they provide support and advice to clients which can result in those clients becoming financially independent.

We also have volunteers who signpost clients by directing them towards other charities and agencies who can provide non-financial solutions to clients.

As well as providing food for clients on an emergency basis we do have clients who have a longer-term need. I feel the burden of stewardship towards the volunteers and supporters to ensure that these clients are taking responsibility for their own situation where they can. Therefore, the Trustees review those clients who are repeat users and expect clients to engage with the financial inclusion advisers and our signposting volunteers in order for us to continue to provide longer term support.

Demand

We provided clients with 656 fewer clients in 25/26 than in 24/25. This was in part due to the temporary closure of the Fordingbridge Distribution Centre although we also saw reductions in Ringwood and Verwood clients. While Fordingbridge clients were served remotely from the Ringwood and Verwood Distribution Centres we did see a greater proportionate reduction in the number of Fordingbridge based clients than we saw in Ringwood and Verwood. While we cannot accurately assess the cause of the general reduction in demand, we believe the work of the Financial Inclusion team and the Schools Family Support Adviser in helping clients to maximise their incomes is a significant factor.

Financial Inclusion and Debt support

Our financial inclusion advisers project began in July 2022, with the help of a grant from Trussell. That financial support ended in June 2026. The Trustees have agreed to continue with the project and have contracted with Citizens Advice New Forest for the year to 30 June 2027. This scheme continues to be a great success with, in addition to non-financial benefits being provided and debt reductions being secured, estimated annual financial gains to clients in the year to 30 June 2026 of £233k were achieved, most of which is recurring. Clients have really valued the intensive support that this team have been able to give them.

Ringwood Foodbank has also provided seed-funding to help establish a Christians against Poverty Debt centre with an employed debt centre manager. This is expected to commence operations imminently.

Family Support Adviser in Schools

We continue to jointly fund, together with STARF (Stronger Together Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge) a Family Support Adviser. This person is employed by Citizens Advice and works in the local state schools in Ringwood and Fordingbridge. She works with families referred or introduced by the School's Family support and Pastoral teams to try to maximise their income and signpost other opportunities. The annual value of recurring income benefits secured by the FSA amount to approximately £60k per term.

Warm items

Using grants provided by the Dorset and Hampshire County Councils we have been able to continue to provide warm clothing, bedding, heaters, hot water bottles, flasks, microwave ovens, air fryers and energy saving devices to clients. Many of the items were identified as being needed by the Financial Inclusion advisers and by Schools and purchased by us. This allowed us to ensure clients got what they needed.

Other Multi Agency working

We are grateful to be able to work with a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies to assist the financially vulnerable in our communities, particularly those that are active in referring clients to us. I have mentioned some of those we work with above, but we are also pleased to work with the Social Prescriber and her team from the Avon Valley practices in the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. We are very grateful to Acts4sharing for the use of their van to distribute food to our centres and for our ability to refer clients needing furniture, bedding and clothing to them for support. We are also represented on the New Forest Cost of Living group which brings together New Forest District Council, the Foodbanks in the Forest, Community First and Citizens Advice. The focus of the group in the coming year will be the implementation of a New Forest Cost of Living plan. We have also improved our working relationship with East Dorset Citizens Advice to the benefit of our Verwood clients. We are pleased that our volunteers are able to support Fareshare Larders, which provide heavily discounted food to its members, in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Three Legged cross as these larders are a step on from Foodbanks. We continue to be very grateful to Price's Fish and Chips who have been supplying free meals to our clients since 2019.

Strategic Objectives

The headlines of our plan continue to be:

Vision

Our vision is that people experiencing poverty in Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Verwood and surrounding areas receive sufficient help and support to enable them to avoid destitution and ultimately the need to use Foodbanks.

Strategic Objectives

1. To continue to provide immediate support to those experiencing poverty
2. To work towards the situation where as many people as possible in our areas receive the maximum income they are entitled to through a continued arrangement with Citizens Advice New Forest
3. To create a greater understanding in our communities of the nature of poverty in our communities
4. To support other charities and agencies that have the same key strategic objectives
5. To communicate with referral agencies, supporters and other institutions

Values

We will continue to adopt the Trussell values of compassion, dignity, community and justice as the basis for everything we do.

Thank you to our Trustees, Volunteers and Donors and everyone who has supported us over the past year. Those in need whom we have been able to support are very grateful for the support of their community.

Peter Vandervelde, Chair of Trustees
9th Sept 2026

Financial Statements
for the Year ended 31 March 2026

Mr Jonathan Gibson, Treasurer

We continue to have wonderful support from local people and organisations. We are fortunate in this respect and the Trustees are most grateful for it.

As previously reported the status of the charity changed to a CIO in 2024. For this reason the prior period comparatives in the accounts is for the nine months to 31st March 2025. In order to make the commentary below meaningful, the current 12 month figures are compared with the prior year 12 month figures to 31st March 2025.

Total bank balances increased by £2,229 during the year to £204,588 as at 31st March 2026. Restricted bank balances fell £25,701 and unrestricted bank balances increased by £27,930 during the year, leaving £1,981 in restricted bank balances and £202,607 in unrestricted balances.

Total receipts for the year to 31 March 2026 at £108,034 were £41,743 lower than in the prior year's annual total of £149,777. The drop in grant receipts of £52,555, is due entirely to the reduction of activity and restricted funding from Trussell relating to the ending of the Local Community Organiser role and the timing of local authority grants. This was partially offset by an increase in unrestricted receipts of £10,812. Excluding the £4,285 of gift aid received which was related to prior years, the increase in unrestricted receipts was £6,527, a 14% increase.

Grants for specific projects, (noted as "restricted" in the financial statement below) were received from Trussell as noted above, totalling £23,085 and further grants were received from Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, Waterside FB and the Hendy Foundation totalling £28,050. As noted above, Gift Aid received in the current year totalled £4,285, versus zero in the prior year. This was caused by the delay in gaining access to the HMRC gift aid website, as a result of the change in status of the charity to a CIO. Two years gift aid was therefore received in the current year.

As noted in the chairman's report, restricted grants received from Trussell, funded part-time Financial Inclusion advisers. Funding from Trussell for the Financial Inclusion project recently ended on 30th June 2026.The total paid to Citizens Advice New Forest, for the current year and part of the prior year for these posts was £57,759. Restricted grants from Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, as noted in the chairman's report, were also used to buy food and winter support items, with payments totalling £19,078 in the year. These two figures total to £76,837 as shown in the restricted payments section of the accounts.

Excluding spend on specific restricted projects as noted above, unrestricted payments for the year were £28,969 in the current year, a fall of £15,749, due to the payment for the schools family support adviser being paid in advance during the prior year.

The Trustees have continued with their policy of prudence and fairness in managing the financial affairs of Ringwood Foodbank and intend to continue in that vein for the indefinite future. A professional audit is not required for these Accounts since the income of the charity continues to be less than £250,000, the level prescribed by The Charity Commission for a professional audit. Trustees express their gratitude to Mr Yuval Salomi for having examined and reported on the Financial Statements in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

RINGWOOD FOODBANK	1206403

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April 2025	To	31st March 2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last yr (9 Months) to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants for Restricted Projects	-	51,135	-	51,135	61,518
500 Club	8,862	-	-	8,862	6,714
Donations	42,860	-	-	42,860	25,902
HMRC, Gift Aid (2 years received)	4,285	-	-	4,285	-
Interest	892	-	-	892	1,674
Total receipts	56,899	51,135	-	108,034	95,808
A2 Payments					
Projects	9,296	65,337	-	74,632	91,093
Rent/lease Costs	10,917	-	-	10,917	7,322
Food purchases	2,358	11,500	-	13,858	11,492
Telephone/internet	1,479	-	-	1,479	1,508
Stationery, Printer & Computer	276	-	-	276	1,229
Transport	1,995	-	-	1,995	1,583
Sundries	1,445	-	-	1,445	1,218
Utilities	700	-	-	700	653
Insurance	504	-	-	504	497
Total payments	28,969	76,837	-	105,806	116,594
Net of receipts/(payments)	27,930	- 25,701		2,229	- 20,786
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	174,677	27,682	-	202,359	223,144
Cash funds this year end	202,607	1,981	-	204,588	202,359

Section B Statement of assets at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	20,842	1,981	-
	500 Club Current Account	27,791	-	-
	Savings Accounts	153,974	-	-
	Total cash funds	202,607	1,981	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Signed by one of the trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
J Gibson	Jonathan Gibson	5/7/26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Ringwood Foodbank		
On accounts for the period ended	31st March 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	1206403
Set out on pages	12		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 / 03 / 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	Yuval Salomi	**Date:**	06/10/2026
Name:	~~Yuval Salomi (Oct 6, 2026, 2:44pm)~~ Yuval Salomi		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA		
Address:	1a Kingsburys Lane Ringwood BH24 1EL		

IER 1 October 2018

This report has been approved by the Trustees of Ringwood Foodbank
September 2026