

Food aid alliance West Northants

c/o Northampton Hope Centre
35 Ash Street
Northampton
NN13HW
1st April 2022



Dear Chancellor

FAAWN is an alliance of a number of local food aid providers in West Northamptonshire, feeding people in poverty, and helping several thousand people each week, mainly on benefits.

In your Spring Statement there was almost no help offered to the very poorest in our community – the people we help and serve every week. In the face of the greatest cost of living crisis in living memory, you made the choice to offer almost no support to the very poorest, who were already facing so much hardship, and who face a frightening future with rising fuel, food, housing and other costs. With a benefit increase 7% less than inflation, the poorest are facing a significant reduction in income. People will starve, or freeze, as well as experiencing all the other harms poverty causes.

Whilst the increased hardship fund is welcome, it is completely inadequate to meet the scale of need on an ongoing basis. All of the other measures announced only help those in work. Yet there are millions of people on benefits who cannot work or can't find work. They face the real prospect of complete destitution in the coming months.

If your expectation is that we, the charity sector will pick up the burden of feeding and helping people, this is misguided. Our efforts are never going to be enough to fully mitigate the effects of what are cuts in living standards for the poorest. As a sector we have received no significant or targeted grant aid for a year from government, and as donations from the public fall due to the impact of cost of living challenges on those who do work, we can foresee our income as a sector will fall. This will reduce the amount of help we can offer at a time when post covid, we are already fully stretched.

We urge you to think again, and immediately put in place real action to help the poorest.

Northampton Hope Centre Shine Concept Re:Store Bugbrooke Community Kitchen Impact Now United African Association Castle Hill United Reform Church Byfield Good Neighbours Peak Empower McCarthy Dixon foundation Brackley Foodbank Daventry Foodbank Kenyan Community Church Community Spaces Daventry Volunteer Bureau Sol Laug Haven	Sikh Community Centre and Youth Club Shine Cic Springs Family Centre Spinney Hill Foodbank Healthworks Food aid Far Cotton SNVB food Daventry Vineyard Community Church Ability Welton Church baby project C2C Far Cotton Foodbank Northampton Cathedral foodbank Duston foodbank St Davids foodbank RBN Sikh Community Group
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<https://goodfoodwnorthants.org/foodaidalliance.html>

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CPPP Centre for policy, promotion and prevention Northampton Town of Sanctuary	Towcester Community Fridge Mental Health Friends
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Members of the Food Aid Alliance West Northants (FAAWN)

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