

**Wansbeck Valley Food Bank in Ashington:**

**November 2022 – January 2023**

As requested, this is a further report to Ashington Town Council. In our report of December 2022 we were unable to include statistics for November as these had not then been collated. We had hoped to provide a four month report in time for the March meeting of the Council’s sub-committee, unfortunately our February statistics are not yet finalised so this report covers the period November 2022 – January 2023 as well as giving the full calendar year picture..

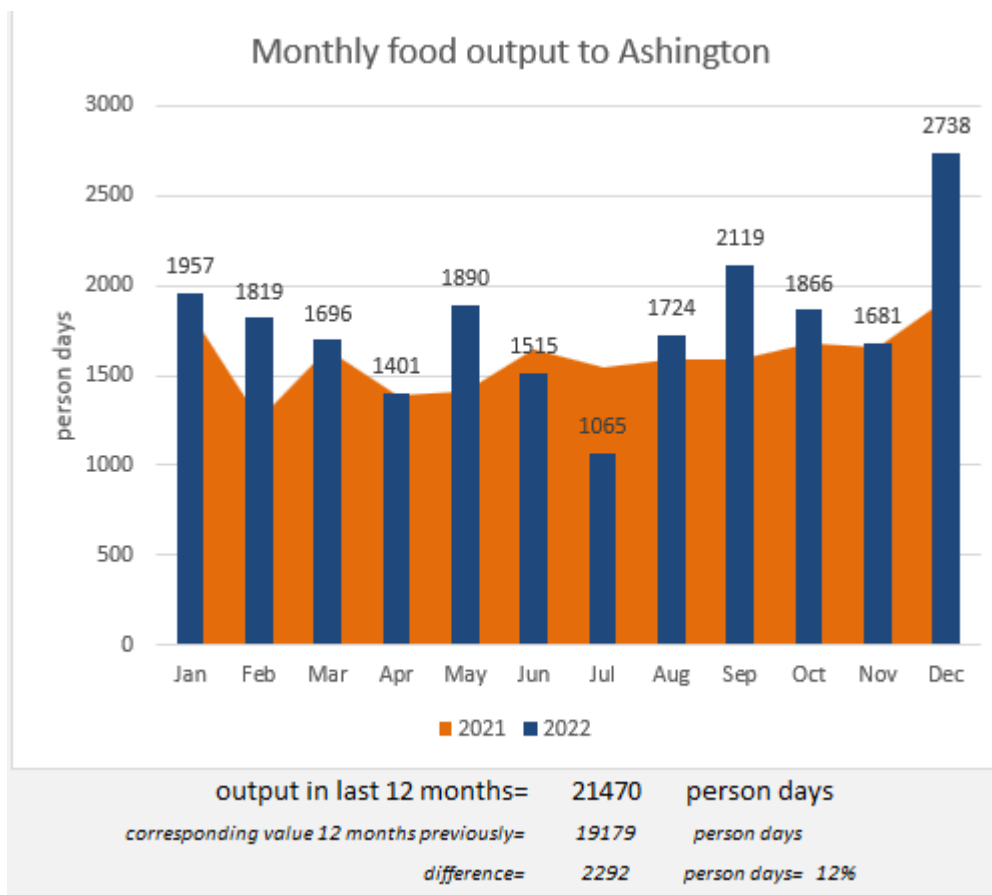
**Full year 2022:**

For context, the numbers of adults and children supported by our emergency food aid in Ashington since our establishment is as follows:

- 2014 = 866
- 2015 = 1141
- 2016 = 1599
- 2017 = 1984
- 2018 = 2154
- 2019 = 3762
- 2020 = 4836
- 2021 = 5335

In 2022 this rose to 5447, 3621 adults and 1826 children.

The graph below still shows that, for most months in 2022, need in Ashington has remained above that of the previous year – itself the highest recorded until that time. It also shows that over 2022 the number of days’ worth of food and other essentials provided was 21,470 (valued at £128,820).



### **November 2022 – January 2023:**

For the three months covered by this report we have supplied 1,731 adults and children in Ashington with food and other essentials. This equates to 7,058 person days of food to a value of £42,348 a significant increase over the equivalent period in 2021/2022 when the figure was 5,545 (£33,270). There is a greater increase in the figures for days of food provided as compared to adults and children supported because we are being increasingly asked to support for longer than our previous standard of three days.

Our work to support families in Ashington as a proportion of the overall work of WVFB continues to be around 60% of our total provision.

### **General:**

Our work at Ashington YMCA who now allow us to provide a collection hub on their premises has proven to be very popular with approximately 40% of our parcels now being collected from there. We have moved to a late morning / lunchtime timeslot for this as it was a more popular time, particularly for those with children in school.

Overall donations of food have still not returned to pre-pandemic levels but because need is now so much higher donations do not meet need and we are having to purchase food in ever increasing amounts.

Our monthly food collections at Asda Ashington are now firmly re-established. Our thanks go again to local shoppers and to the store's staff as they do to the members of Ashington Town Council for agreeing to the invaluable food aid grant.

For information, whilst we are still in the same premises at Northgate Hospital we expect to be asked to move in the very near future. The hospital trust are still hoping to be able to find us alternative premises elsewhere on the site but this is not guaranteed.

Peter Robertson

on behalf of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

March 2023