

# NEWSLETTER

## Paul Brookhouse



an avid Liverpool fan, is the Project Manager for the Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance - his role has been key in supporting people in Derby with food provision throughout the pandemic and beyond.

"I've worked in communities for around 27 years. I was working in Birmingham but my dad became ill and so I moved back to Derby and was based in Allenton where I did my training in youth work – at the time Allenton was one of the top 50 deprived places in the country. I was involved in youth work since the age of 19 until the last 10 years – so 17 years of youth work.

I originally wanted to be a bank manager, if you can believe it! I got accepted by Barclays on a management course but pulled out at the last minute as they placed me in Newcastle and I didn't want to move up there.

I've worked in Derby now for around 19 years. For the last 10 years I've worked in supporting people around poverty and deprivation in local communities. That included setting up The Hope Centre, one of the first foodbanks in the city, and I partly set up the Winter Night Shelter with Derby City Mission which I ran one day a week in its first year as well as working at The Hope Centre.

I put together the safeguarding training for the city around gangs. I wrote it and delivered it in the city at the time. And most recently, ever since the pandemic, I've been involved in the Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance – a busy old 19 years!"

## Katya Lomas

Welcome to the team! From April '22 Katya took the lead on administrative side of Food 4 Thought project. Irina, our Project Administrator, started a new role within Community Action as part of finance team. This is good progression for Irina.



## What's been happening

We are currently in a process of registering DF4T Alliance as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which enable us to apply and attract further funding.

DF4T Alliance in partnership with CAD administered over 250 Winter Household Support fund applications and directly administered vouchers for 100 applications. This is now closed but a new version of this fund will be open after June 2022. This has been a 'sticky plaster' solution to need but has made a difference for many people short term.

The last few months we have seen another increase in food parcel requests.

When talking to our customers, the main reason for this is due to the increasing costs of gas and electric. Most of our customers are on prepay meters, and this is eating up the weekly electric they used to try and budget in days, meaning they are putting more money in for this and not able to afford the food, which has also gone up in price. People are concerned they cannot make Universal Credit payments or wages stretch for the whole month.

We put out a plea to see if we could acquire 10,000 Easter eggs to support the Food Banks and groups that we work with. We were donated over 4,000 Easter Eggs from local businesses and organisations from around the city which was a huge help. Businesses that donated: *Incora Derby County Women's Academy teams, Derby County Community Trust, Derbyshire Cricket Foundation and club, Julie Hawkins and team from Rolls Royce Roger Dale, team from Unite, Birds Bakery, Chellaston School, Blue Arrow, The Gym group, DNS LTD, PKFSmithsCooperSystems, Timms Solicitors* to name just a few. We were able to support with the donated Easter Eggs over 30 different Food Projects and Community Groups that we work with who support vulnerable children within the city.

Thank you to all who supported!



WE NEED YOU



PLEASE SHARE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS WITH YOUR NETWORK





# Food Banks

For the last financial year April 2021 - March 2022 - 18,162 food parcels were distributed. For that year we helped 17,588 children and 20,122 adults! And already in April 2022- 1,473 food parcels were distributed, we were able to help 1,261 children and 1,636 adults.

## Who's Who of DF4T Alliance Community Members:

### *The Hope Centre:*

*Their services support people in crisis including young people, the elderly, low-income families, children, single parents, refugees and asylum seekers of all faith and ethnic backgrounds living in poverty. These services currently include their Food Bank, Hope Store and Lunch Club for over 50's.*

*Their aims: poverty (to tackle poverty experienced by individuals, young people, single parents & families in our local community, helping to restore personal dignity); support (to support the most vulnerable within our communities, through 1-2-1 support, directing to other agencies and challenging wrong decisions); provide (to provide a safe & welcoming environment for individuals to grow and face the daily challenge of difficult situations).*

## Community Shops



The Community Shops at Aspire and Derby City Mission were officially launched in March 2022, and positive feedback on this model continues to highlight the need to shift away from the traditional Food Bank concept to one of more dignity, choice and longer term support that is offered in this new approach.

The Community Shop run by Community One at Pakistan Community Centre will officially launch in June 2022.



## Donations and Volunteers

Over the past few months we have seen a big drop in donations. So we are looking at ways we can increase donations. *Item Of The Month* social media post we will share in May for an item that we are short of. May's item will be tinned hot and cold meat. The more people that help us to share our social media posts will help us to increase donations!

*Do you have friends or family that would be interested in volunteering with DF4T Alliance? Please ask them to get in touch with the volunteers centre on 01332 342272 for an application and more information.*

*We have a variety of different opportunities available: such as Monday- Friday AM and PM shifts at our central storage unit, volunteer drivers and helpers to support with our surplus food collections and donations, help with fundraising events such as supermarket collection days (1-2 hour volunteering slots).*

**Want to Volunteer?**



- Fundraising awareness event at both Asda stores and Morrisons;
- 28 Day Fundraising campaign;
- Volunteer Recruitment Drive.

## Coming up...

- Campaign for support for the summer school holidays;
- Launch of new initiatives.

FOR MORE VISIT:

[www.communityactionderby.org.uk/df4ta](http://www.communityactionderby.org.uk/df4ta)

FOR QUERIES:

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FACEBOOK: [@DF4TA](https://www.facebook.com/DF4TA) or [@CommunityActionDerby](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityActionDerby)

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