

Asda's Foodbank Fundamentals Grant Helps Fill the Shelves at West Somerset Food Cupboard

West Somerset Food Cupboard is delighted to have received £600 from Asda's Foodbank Fundamentals grant funding to help provide emergency food. Over the past few months, the Food Cupboard has seen a 10% increase in demand for emergency food support. The grant from Asda will meet this shortfall as we enter the challenging winter months, to help cover the essential needs of people in the community.

Sara Trigg, Team Leader at West Somerset Food Cupboard said, "We are so grateful to the Asda Foundation. Our emergency food bags provide meals for a family for up to four days, they include a selection of non-perishable goods, ranging from tea and coffee to tinned meat, vegetables, pasta and rice, supporting those in greatest need of good nutrition. The bags are not identical, as we try to use whatever has been donated, but occasionally we purchase food to cater for allergies or special dietary requirements. People on low incomes struggle to afford these more expensive items, so this grant will help us to meet their needs."

"Our volunteers and the local community know that food poverty can affect any of us through unexpected challenges in our lives and we can all feel an extra confidence in the charity's ability to support people in difficulties. This grant will make a difference for the community in which we serve."

Karl Doyle, Chair of the Asda Foundation commented, "Foodbanks and local food organisations provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities when they are facing hard times. We know that they are a lifeline service to many, often facing high demand with the added pressure of shortages in donations and volunteers. We hope this Asda Foundation funding can support their needs in the final months of the year."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About The Asda Foundation

1. In response to the cost-of-living crisis, the Asda Foundation has launched the Foodbank Fundamentals Fund, allocating a total of £400,000 in funding to support not-for-profit organisations that provide food and essential supplies to the UK's most disadvantaged communities.
2. In 2024, £265,000 of funding was awarded by the Asda Foundation to 271 food distributors across the UK ahead of the winter months.

About The West Somerset Food Cupboard

Emergency Food Parcels - Contd.....

West Somerset is ranked as within the worst 20% for food affordability across England. West Somerset Food Cupboard has seen a year-on-year increase of 10% in the number of emergency food parcels it has distributed in 2025 to date.

Local Pantry Scheme

In May 2022 the West Somerset Food Cupboard launched a Local Pantry in partnership with Somerset West and Taunton Council and Fareshare South West. The Local Pantry offers affordable access to fresh, chilled, frozen, and surplus food that would otherwise perish. The Local Pantry has 40 member households and holds a lengthy waiting list. In 2024 the Local Pantry distributed 4,000 bags of surplus food.

Donations

If you are interested in making a one-off or regular financial donation to the West Somerset Food Cupboard, please visit our website for more information and to find out how you can help.

www.wsfoodcupboard.org.uk/donate/