

DCF Report to CTiW Annual Meeting

By Paul Adams 18/1/16

2015 in many ways has been challenging for Daylight Centre Fellowship and yet we still have been able to provide a vital role in supporting people in need in our local community. The core of our work continues to follow three strands.

1. Daycentre

A space where people can come, receive a warm welcome and maintain, renew and make friendships.

We had 6,943 visits to the centre during the year.

Within the centre we provide an affordable meal service each day, feeding an average of 12 people a day, this has increased to 15 since January 2016. Volunteers man our kitchen and without their dedication this service would not run. Currently we require kitchen volunteers for Wednesdays.

Particularly through the summer months we were blessed in receiving fresh produce from the excess of people's allotments. We have developed relationships with Tesco and the Coop and hopefully will be able to access food through Sainsbury's in a new venture that is being rolled out to reduce wastage, we would have access to products that are close to their sell by date. The advantage of this scheme is that we could take just what we needed.

Regretfully we were not able to host a Christmas Day event for lonely people, we ran a special event the previous week, where we catered for 40 guests each one also receiving a gift bag. The Full Gospel Church in Rushden kindly offered 16 places on Christmas day and 12 of our regular clients join in with their celebrations.

We would like churches in the town to help with organising an event for Christmas 2016.

Also we would value help with translation services as more people are coming in the centre with little or no English.

2. Client Support Services

Our established client support coordinator left during May 2015 and was replaced in September. The service continued through the interim months, via a temporary appointment. Since September we have been monitoring the reasons people are accessing client support. The top reasons are:-

- a. Food support
- b. Contact another agency
- c. Call DWP about benefits
- d. Housing advice
- e. Help with correspondence

In addition to this we are providing a c/o address to many clients.

3. Foodbank

Our greatest challenge with running the Foodbank is generating the income support required to run the project. Northamptonshire County Council have not supported the project since March 2015 and the costs have been absorbed into DCF running costs.

We again have been blessed with incredible donations of food and goods from churches, schools, businesses and other organisations and have a healthy supply of most items. The number of parcels issued was down considerably on the previous year and we hoped this was a sign of the economy improving; however since November we have been seeing increasing numbers and are concerned about the change in the benefit system, namely Universal Credit.

For new claims for single people currently; and in time for every one; the time between making the claim and receiving any money is between 6-8weeks. People are expected to live off any savings that they have, but most people are living on the breadline and this is starting to be reflected in the distribution of parcels via the Foodbank.

We have made provision for increasing the number of parcels for people on Universal credit, providing that we can verify their claim.

We truly do thank you for all your encouragement and support throughout 2015 and look forward to working together to serve in our town over the coming months.

Yours in Christ

Paul Adams

DCF Manager