



Funding support

Compassion Food Bank

Compassion Food Bank is an independent food bank that provides free food to people in need in Manchester and its surrounding areas as well as a drop in facility for ex-offenders and the wider community. Each food parcel provides food for the client and their family member for at least three meals per day for a minimum of three days. The food provided is nutritious and mixture of non-perishable, frozen and fresh foods.



Clients can either visit Compassion Food Bank to be assessed or they can be referred via a referral agency. Food is kindly donated by the local community as well as businesses, charities and organisations. Compassion Food Bank also has a membership with Fareshare (GM) which provides a weekly delivery of vegetables and fresh food items. Other items distributed to clients include toiletries, clothing and new electrical appliances.

Compassion Food Bank has been growing to meet demand and needed further funding to help them to expand and meet the needs of the local area. The food bank operates in Moss Side and the surrounding wards here there is a high number of families living in poverty or on very low incomes. The food bank has been supported by a dedicated team of volunteers from the beginning.



The group contacted Manchester Community Central for help in identifying funding to apply for to help to develop the service to meet the needs of the local community. One of the teams Organisational Development Workers supported the group to apply for a Reaching Communities grant.



The group was supported right from the start in completing a stage one application through to finally completing and submitting their stage two application form. It can be a long but rewarding process to go through applying for a Reaching Communities grant. Compassion Food Bank was successful in securing funding for three years to deliver:

- A food bank – to meet a specific demand for emergency food locally, free emergency food parcels will be given to people assessed to be in financial difficulty
- Cooking and budgeting classes - these monthly classes will help families on low incomes improve their cooking and food budgeting skills.
- Breakfast club – provided once a week, this is an opportunity for those on low income to meet socially and access information, advice and guidance support
- Money management programme - this quarterly programme includes topics designed to improve knowledge of money management

"The help and support that we received from Macc was invaluable and a major contributor to the success of our Reaching Communities application." Michelle Welch

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