

**Briefing Note**

**Recent unemployment and first time foodbank use**

**Absence of data**

Foodbanks in Liverpool do not currently monitor unemployment in relation to foodbank use.

It is not possible to specifically identify unemployment as a reason for referral following Trussell Trust’s current monitoring procedures. The incidence where someone is recently unemployed and finds themselves in acute financial crisis as a result, is likely to be recorded via the Trussell Trust red voucher system under ‘main cause of crisis: low income’ or ‘main cause of crisis: benefit changes’.

First time foodbank users are also not currently routinely identified via existing foodbank monitoring procedures.

**Observations: frontline staff and volunteers**

Staff and volunteers supporting the work of foodbanks within Liverpool observed an increase in the recently unemployed (or those who had experienced a significant reduction in hours) using a foodbank.

They identified individuals who has previously held the following jobs:

* Bus Driver
* Beauty Worker
* Financial Industry
* Builder
* Hospitality sector
* Actor
* Cleaner
* Labourer

**Case Studies**

**Croxteth, North Liverpool foodbank (November 2020)**

One man we have got to know over lockdown lost his job as an actor. I don't think he has ever used Foodbank before but has found himself in really difficult circumstances because he usually works at a theatre.

**Kensington, North Liverpool foodbank (November 2020)**

1 male attended for a voucher during first lockdown - he worked at a restaurant and was laid off, his family includes a wife and three children with no other income so they had to come to Foodbank. When the lockdown lifted they stopped coming to Foodbank about a week later and we assumed they had regained their job. But they returned about three weeks ago saying they had been let go again and currently had no work. He told me they would have been lost without the Foodbank and were hugely grateful, 'thank you so much I think you have saved our lives.'

6-8 Sri Lankan families all lost work in hospitality particularly in restaurants  
  
1 family male lost work as a result of COVID worked as a labourer and was immediately made redundant  
  
1 single male working in a warehouse laid off - when I saw him Saturday he said he had found new work as a security guard but will see  
  
1 family Liverpool City Centre husband wife 2 children school age He lost his job as a result of COVId they are both searching applied for lots no joy

**Clubmoor, North Liverpool foodbank (April 2020)**

The Smithson family from Clubmoor in Liverpool: John the main bread winner lost his job in April the hospitality sector with their two kids at home from school household spending significantly increased. The family applied for Universal Credit as soon as John lost his job, but the process took a number of weeks and they still had the pressures of rent and previous debts. The family were supported by the foodbank and signposted to the City’s support scheme for further help.

**Norris Green, L11 Food Hub (May 2020)**

Paulo, a single man received support from a local charity who have been providing emergency foodbank parcels for several weeks in May. Paulo lost his job as the company he was working for were unable to furlough him as he was on a zero hour’s contract – he has never applied for benefits before and was unsure how to complete the online application.

**South Liverpool foodbank (November 2020)**

The reason we need this is that I have lost my job a few months ago and we now have run out of savings etc. I am awaiting a decision from the benefits agency regarding a claim and have been advised it could take a few weeks.

I was working and my shifts have plummeted and I literally can't afford to eat and have nothing in at all.