

The Community Foodbank Skye and Lochalsh Annual Report April 2019-March 2020.

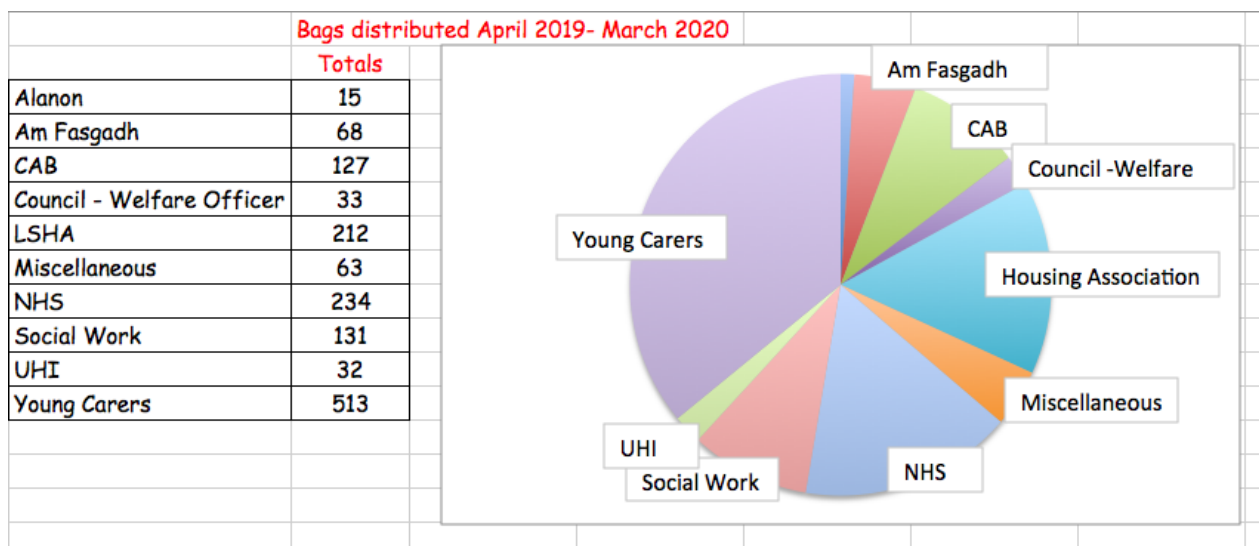
I am pleased to provide the first Annual Report of the Community Foodbank- Skye and Lochalsh. The Foodbank's Constitution was approved by the Office of Registered Charities Scotland (OSCR) and it became a Registered Charity in March 2019.

A Management Group was formed and has met regularly while Volunteers' meetings were also held throughout the year. A Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Volunteer Co-ordinator were appointed.

The Foodbank has a healthy number of volunteers that collect and distribute food. Demand for food has grown considerably as can be seen in the statistics provided. Fortunately the collection points in Portree, Dunvegan, Uig, Waternish and Staffin have provided the Foodbank with a regular source of food donations. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank the shopkeepers and others who provide the collection points.

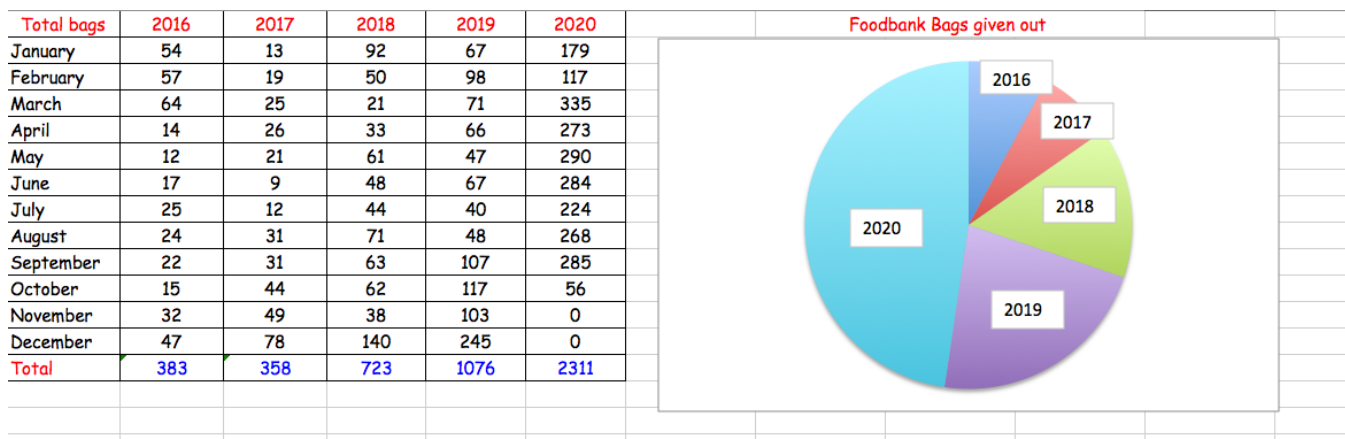
We live in a very generous community. Not only do people donate food to the collection points but individual donations are significant. During the year we set up a Website, a Facebook page and a Donations page - thanks to Hugh Campbell who moved us into the 21st Century. We are immensely grateful to every individual who has donated to us as we are able to supplement food donations by buying food from local shops. We have also been fortunate to receive large donations from local fundraising events and again are grateful to have benefitted from the St. Andrews Night Auction organised by Ian Williams and Anne Gracie. A list of groups who donated funds is provided below but we cannot name all the individuals who help us. We can just say thank you for all donations.

Our system of distribution is mainly through Statutory and Voluntary Organisations. This is due to the large area we cover and the dispersed nature of the community. We have been able to provide food for people throughout the area but are aware that we can develop this further in future. Individuals and families can access food through the Local Citizens Advice Bureau in Portree and food bags are taken to their drop-in service in Kyle. Anyone who requests food at CAB can choose to remain anonymous or can take advantage of advice at CAB regarding income and benefits. We have links to the Housing and Social Work Departments, NHS, UHI and to Voluntary Organisations including the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, Am Fasgadh, Young Carers and Womens Aid. The Charity RagTag has also been important distribution point in Broadford. We therefore would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff in these organisations who form a link between the Foodbank and those families and individuals in need.



We are most appreciative that The Church of Scotland in Portree provides rooms for us to store food and make up bags for collection. The Foodbank also received a generous donation from the Church's Christmas service.

Over the last year one of our main achievements is that we have been able to respond to growing demand. As can be seen from the accompanying diagrams we have greatly increased the number of people we have been able to help. From April 2019 – March 2020, we have given out approximately 1500 bags compared to less than 800 for the same period in the previous year.



During this year a number of new volunteers have joined the Foodbank, mainly from the south of the area and we welcome this development as it means the large geographical area can be covered more efficiently. A major achievement is that our system works, well - everyone does their bit and we are optimistic that we are making an impact on our community both by raising awareness and by providing food where it is needed.

At the very end of the period covered by this report the Coronavirus pandemic caused the whole of the UK to go into 'lockdown' (23 March 2020). During the first

week of the lockdown period the demand on the Foodbank increased noticeably. Many people in our community rely on the tourist and hospitality industries for their livelihood. Uncertainty and fear about the future is being expressed. I am pleased to say that we have the ability to respond to what is unfolding as a crisis. I am confident that food will be distributed to meet increasing demand and the fact that good communication is becoming established between the Foodbank and the emerging emergency activities in the community. We will work with them to ensure that they complement rather than duplicate the work of the Foodbank.

I would like to thank all the volunteers -those who collect food and donations, manage the Website and Facebook page, our Treasurer, Secretary and Volunteer Co-ordinator, the volunteers who check every sell by date and keep the store cupboard stocked and tidy and those who make up bags for distribution.

Financial donations have been received from the following organisations:

Skeabost St. Andrew's Night Auction
Portree Church of Scotland
St. Columba's Church
William Wilson's
Portree Primary School
The 'wee' Co-op
The Church of Scotland Ladies' Bible Study Group,
Relish Delicatessen
Uig Community Gala Day
Sligachan Hotel
Howdens
Green Brigade
Chamber Music Group
NFU
Skye Camanachd Ladies Shinty Team

Kate Kirk
Interim Chair