

I have put together a brief statement for you. Please see attached. Thank you.

Launch of the Ladywood Foodbank – “Labour of Love” 2011 –

Addressing the Needs of People in Crisis!

The Meeting for the Launch of the Ladywood Foodbank took place at St Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Row, Birmingham on Friday 21 January 2011 at 2:15 p.m.

Those present were:-

MP of Birmingham, Ladywood Constituency
Clerk at St Luke's Church Centre
Ladywood Project, Ladywood Community & Health Centre
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Manager for Birmingham City Mission
Sisters of Mercy – Chair for Lozells Neighbour Forum
Reverend for St John & St Peter's Church
Elder for Faizul Quran Jamia Mosque
Manager for Lozells Neighbourhood Office
Constituency Support Officer, Ladywood, Aston, Nechells & Soho Ward
Constituency Support Officer, Ladywood, Aston, Nechells & Soho Ward
Senior Welfare Rights Officer, Welfare Rights/Anti Poverty
Pastor at Ladywood Seventh Day Adventist Church
Community Leader at Ladywood Seventh Day Adventist Church
Co-ordinator for the Ladywood Foodbank
ChurchCitizens Advice Bureau (C.A.B.) Tyseley CAB
SiFA Fireside (Homeless Charity in Birmingham)

Those present at the meeting were Service Providers from the Birmingham City Council who cover the Ladywood Constituency and Welfare Poverty Units as well as Charitable Organisations, Homeless Charities and other religious organisations, who we hope to all closely work in partnership with.

The meeting was to introduce them to our project and to discuss the needs to be met of those families and individuals who reside within the Ladywood and surrounding areas who cannot afford their most basic needs food, due to circumstances beyond their control.

To address the needs of those families and individuals, we hope to supply them with 3 days nutritionally balanced emergency food aid for people in crisis identified and referred by frontline voucher holders. To closely work with statutory Service Providers and develop a good relationship with them who will refer people to our project.

Unfortunately hunger is not just a third world problem. Today people across the UK struggle to feed themselves and their families.

There are 12 to 13 million people or more living below the poverty line in the UK.

Government statistics show that in the Ladywood Constituency 81% of children are living in low income families, the highest proportion in the UK. Everyday people go hungry because of the personal circumstances, e.g. redundancy, partner leaving home, serious illness, debt. In the Ladywood alone,

36% are living on working class credits and almost half of adults living in the ward are unemployed. Sparkbrook, Small Heath and Hodge Hill were also in the top ten of the most deprived wards in the country and have high levels of child poverty. We wish to tackle this problem within the community.

Foodbanks help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. We need your help to donate food to our Foodbank to help those in crisis. These foods must be non-perishable foods such as those in tins, packets, dried milk, Long Life milk, tinned fruit, and healthy snacks. You can also donate monetary funds to us by making out a cheque payable to Ladywood Foodbank – “Labour of Love”, S.D.A.C. c/o St John's & St Peter's Church Hall, Darnley Road, Ladywood, Birmingham, B16 8TF.

A simple bag of food will make a big difference!

The MP of Birmingham Ladywood gave us some very valuable advice. This advice was based on moving the project to impact more on the Aston/Nechells border as there were already a few projects already operating within the Ladywood area and none at all within Aston and Nechells.

We are in the process of designing a website so people can donate to this very worthy cause. Your support and help would be most helpful and appreciated!

Welcome to the Ladywood Foodbank 2011 – The services we will provide will have an enormous impact on the people who will use them, giving them an important breathing space at a time of great need and stress.

Debbie Morrison

Co-ordinator of the Ladywood Foodbank – “Labour of Love” 2011

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