

## Press Release

**29 September 2015**

---

### **New Shepway Foodbank opens its doors in New Romney**

A foodbank to serve the community of the Romney Marsh opened its doors on Tuesday 22 September.

For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis or change in personal circumstances – such as redundancy, benefit delay or an unexpected bill - can mean going hungry. This new distribution centre, based at the Romney Marsh Community Church, will be open twice a week.

The Shepway Foodbank, which also has distribution points in Folkestone and Hawkinge, has already supported and fed 264 families, including 456 children and 426 adults across Shepway. Volunteers at the foodbank also take time to listen to those in need and direct them to further sources of aid and support available locally.

Shepway foodbank is run by the Rainbow Centre, Folkestone, and its team is urging people to donate much needed goods such as sugar, tinned sandwich meat, tinned fruit, as well as toiletries and baby necessities such as nappies and wipes.

*To find out how to donate goods, please call 07913 573 403*

Jon Wilson is Chief Executive Officer of The Rainbow Centre. He explains how the foodbank is making a difference locally.

“ The harsh reality is that one in five people are living below the poverty line in the UK and, unfortunately, this extends to Shepway. Every day parents skip meals to feed their children, and people are forced to choose between, for example, paying their rent and eating. Our foodbanks provide vital support to local individuals and families in crisis through the provision of emergency food supplies.”

He continues, “ We are delighted that the Shepway Foodbank has been chosen by Sainsbury’s Hythe as its charity of the Year, and that representatives of the company could attend today to see for themselves how their wonderful fundraising efforts are used.”

Chairman of Shepway District Council, Councillor Janet Holben, attended the official opening, alongside the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Patricia Rolfe, and the Mayor of Lydd, Councillor Tom Dawes.

Councillor Holben comments:

“The way that the local community has risen to the challenge of providing this foodbank shows a degree of compassion and caring for others, which cannot be overstated. It was a pleasure to visit the facility and be able to meet and thank those who give up their time to provide this essential service.”

Shepway Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's foodbank network and operates from St Lukes Church in Hawkinge, the Folkestone Baptist Church, Our Lady Help for Christians and the Romney Marsh Community Church.

**To find out how to access the foodbank, please call 07913 573403.**

To find out more or to donate funds please visit <http://shepway.foodbank.org.uk>

### **Pictures:**

01. Shepway Foodbank has been chosen as Sainsbury's Hythe Charity of the Year.

02- Jon Wilson, CEO Rainbow centre (back row) with volunteers of the Shepway Foodbank, representatives of Sainsbury's Hythe and invited dignitaries.  
(Wearing Chains of Office) left to right: Town Mayor of Lydd Cllr Tom Dawes, Chairman of Shepway District Council Cllr Jan Holben, Mayor of New Romney Patricia Rolfe.

03 – Volunteers of the Shepway Foodbank  
Left to right: Maggie Smart; Mel Buck; Joan Duckworth; Sheila Heather; Christine Clifton; Barbara Graves; Imogen Taylor.

04- Left to right; Jon Wilson CEO Rainbow Centre, Mayor of New Romney Patricia Rolfe, Town Mayor of Lydd Cllr Tom Dawes.

- ENDS -

### **Notes for editors:**

The Folkestone Family Care Centre began to respond to the needs of individuals and families facing crises in 1985 when Christians from different Church traditions decided to work together to help the people that society often forgets in Shepway.

The organisation celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

Renamed the Folkestone Rainbow Centre in 1992, the organisation continues to support people through times of crisis as well as investing in children's early years' development and wellbeing through our Pre Schools and Contact services. The Rainbow Centre, as it has become known locally, works in partnership with Churches Together in Folkestone, which is committed to showing Christian care and compassion in the town.

Today, The Rainbow Centre has over 320 volunteers, without whom it would be unable to offer the range of services dedicated to help those most in need in our local community. In June 2003 the Folkestone Rainbow Centre was awarded 'The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – The MBE for volunteer groups.

### **Other services provided by The Rainbow Centre**

**Crisis Drop-in:** The Crisis Drop-in supports individuals who find themselves dealing with either homelessness or those who are in danger of losing their accommodation.

**Rainbow Club:** Provides a space for guests to relax, socialise and have fun;

**FoodStop:** This mobile soup and sandwich service helps those who are homeless or living in extreme poverty.

**Pre-Schools and Contact Centre:** The Centre also invests in children's early years by running two pre-schools and a contact centre, which allows children to rebuild their relationship with a non-resident parent.

**Rainbow Shop:** Rainbow Shop is a charity shop in Cheriton which helps raise funds for the work of the Rainbow Centre.

**Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter:** The Winter Shelter is run in partnership with Churches Together in Folkestone and provides warm beds, hot meals and social interaction for homeless guests in the winter months.

**Shepway Foodbank:** The Shepway Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's foodbank network and supports families in crisis, operating from St Luke's Church, Hawkinge, the Folkestone Baptist Church and the New Romney Community Church.

### **Contacts:**

**CEO** Jon Wilson  
**Address:** Folkestone Rainbow Centre,  
69 Sandgate Road,  
Folkestone  
CT20 2AF  
**Tel:** 01303 850733  
**Email:** [info@rainbow-centre.org](mailto:info@rainbow-centre.org)

**Websites:** <http://shepway.foodbank.org.uk>  
<http://www.folkestonerainbowcentre.org.uk>  
<http://www.wintershelter.org.uk>

### **Press Enquiries**

Clare Grove  
**Tel:** 01303 760670  
**Email:** [clare@drive-marketing.co.uk](mailto:clare@drive-marketing.co.uk)

