**News Release from Thurrock Foodbank**

35,000 meals provided in Thurrock

This week Thurrock foodbank reported its annual figures in common with the other 430 Trussell Trust foodbanks across the UK.

The demand for food in Thurrock remains undimished since last year.

In the twelve months to the end of March 2016 Thurrock foodbank has provided food for 3,907 people in food crisis in our borough. That is made up of 2,240 adults and 1,667 children. It means that enough food has been given out for more than 35,000 individual meals.

In the past year there has been an increase in demand from homeless people and we have seen far more requests from people temporarily accommodated in hotels or sofa surfing.

Thurrock foodbank provides three day’s worth of emergency food supplies to those people in food crisis in our borough.

Sarah Cordell, Manager of Thurrock foodbank said “ We are so grateful to everyone who has donated food items or money to Thurrock foodbank over the past year and for their continuing support to make sure no one goes hungry. However our demand for food is currently far out-stripping our current level of donations, so we would encourage everyone to add one extra item to their basket whenever they go shopping and give this to the foodbank to help local people in need.”

The foodbank continues to require donations of food to meet the demand. We are currently very short of items such as long-life fruit juice, dried mashed potato, sugar, long-life milk, cereal, jam, tea bags and custard. You can donate food in the collection bins located in many supermarkets or direct to our warehouse. See the website at **thurrock.foodbank**.org.uk for a full list of collection points.

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Thurrock foodbank figures for 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 are

Total Fed 3,907

Adults 2,240

Children 1,667

Total vouchers redeemed 1,466

Compared to last year (April 2014 to March 2015)

Total Fed 3,927

Adult 2,281

Children 1,646

Total vouchers redeemed 1,502