

'Emergency Food Aid : A National Learning Exchange'

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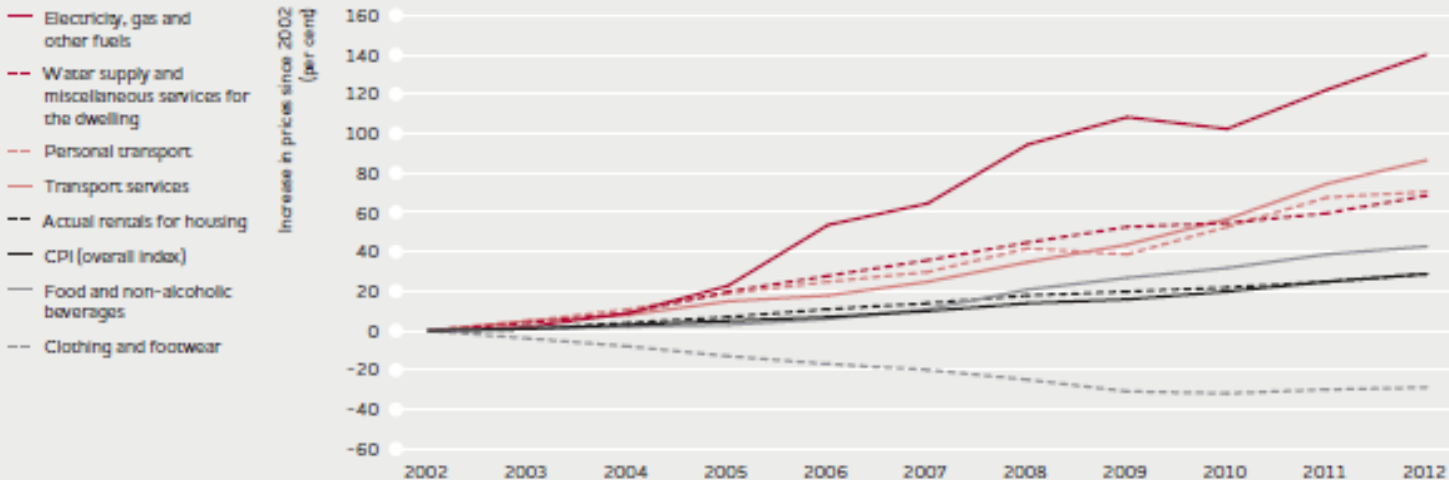
About the Poverty Alliance

- A Scotland-wide independent network of groups, organisations and individuals working together to tackle poverty.
- Focus on working alongside people in poverty to ensure their experience is heard by policy makers.
- Our aim is to *combat poverty by working with others to empower individuals and communities to effect change in the distribution of power and resources.*

Why are households seeking emergency food aid?

Indicator: 5A

Over the last decade the cost of utilities and transport has risen much faster than the overall rate of consumer price inflation.

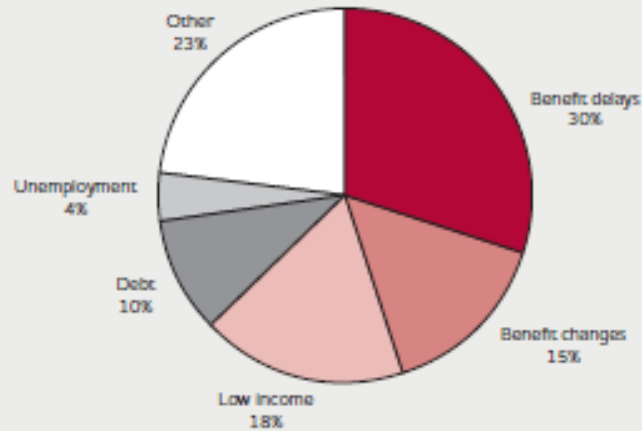


Source: Consumer Price Inflation Indices, ONS; the data is for the UK

Why are households seeking emergency food aid?

Indicator: 5B

Almost half of referrals to food banks are related to benefit delays or changes.



Source: Trussell Trust; the data is for 2012/13

What does this mean for those households?

- *“I sat in my house starving for days waiting for the day my money came in. I felt too ashamed to ask my family and friends for help”.*
- *“It was very difficult I did not eat during those times”*
- *“Occasionally I will miss meals”*

In and Out of Work Poverty; Barriers

- This is a three person household with two adults and a young person aged 17. The young person has recently gained employment within a low paid apprenticeship. One of the adults in the household has a chronic health condition with the other adult being their carer. They have been forced to access emergency food aid within the past few months. They have accessed both referred emergency food aid support from a money advice service and access from a self referral food bank.

Barriers

- Stigma, transport , quality of food and support services, confidence and mental health.
- like its your fault, like I didn't deserve it and I was stressed about going in the first place and they asked me five hundred questions”
- “Trussell treated me like a normal person”

Key Issues

- Food banks are a crisis response – how do we ensure they do not become a permanent solution?
- Are there more sustainable, rights based, community responses to food issues
- How do we ensure that those using emergency food aid are accessing the additional support they may need?
- How do we link issues around food production, environmental concerns, food knowledge – what would an assets based response to food poverty look like?

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