Edinburgh NE foodbank

EDINBURGH NORTH EAST FOODBANK SCIO
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 October 2025

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator
www.oscr.org.uk

Registered SCIO
SC044944

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 October 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2025

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Edinburgh North East Food bank SCIO
Charity no	SC044944
Address	19, Stewartfield,
	Leith
	EH6 5RQ

Current Trustees

General Manager

Alison Roxburgh

Independent Examiner

Eddie Thorn FCBI

Bankers

Virgin Money

83 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 3ES

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO).

It was registered 20 June 2014.

Appointment of Trustees

'The management committee, which normally meets on a Tuesday evening every couple of months, is the charity's trustees, other office bearers and representatives from each of the Churches involved. Membership of the management committee is open to all volunteers participating in the running of the food bank. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of nine trustees.

Objectives and Activities

The prevention or relief of poverty in Edinburgh North East and surrounding areas in particular but not exclusively, by providing emergency food supplies to individuals in need, to prevent or relieve poverty. To advance citizenship and community development by encouraging volunteering within the project. The organisation shall promote (but not promote exclusively) its activities and delivery operations to people within the Area of Benefit who are experiencing financial hardship and or vulnerable. These people will be the organisation's beneficiaries.

Charitable Purposes

The relief of poverty of those in need by reason of financial hardship, by the provision of short-term food supplies and advice/assistance regarding relief/prevention of underlying situation. The advancement of citizenship or community development by bringing volunteers from the local area to distribute the food supplies and offer companionship by sharing conversation and refreshments while the supplies are being made up and passing on details of appropriate professionals to alleviate the service users situation.

Activities

Our food bank helps no particular group specifically, but anybody in need in the community in general, it operates under the guidelines of the Trussell Trust. We are open

Mon: 1.00pm-2.30pm North & South Leith Parisch Church Halls, 6 Henderson Street EH6 6BS

Tue: 1.00pm-2.30pm Leith St Andrews Parish Church, 410-412 Easter Road, EH6 8HT

Wed: 11.00am–12.30pm LARCH Restalrig (Previously known as St Margarets Church), 48 Restalrig Road South EH7 6LE

Wed: 4.30pm - 6.00pm LARCH Leith (Previously known as Pilrig St Pauls Church) 1b Pilrig Street EH6 5AH

Thu: 10-00am–11.30am Leith St Andrews Parish Church, 410-412 Easter Road, EH6 8HT

Fri: 3.00pm –5.00pm North & South Leith Parisch Church Halls, 6 Henderson Street EH6 6BS

Food given out is donated by schools, churches, businesses, individuals, or through supermarket collections or purchased as required. At the warehouse, volunteers weigh and sort the donated food according to type and 'best before date.' Professionals from statutory and voluntary organisations such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, Citizens Advice Bureau staff, welfare officers, the police and probation officers, identify people in crisis and issue them with a food bank voucher. Clients bring their voucher to a food bank centre where it can be exchanged for three days' supply of emergency food. Clients are signposted to further support.

Achievement and Performance

In the last year Edinburgh North East Food Bank has continued to serve and supply essential emergency food to the people of Leith. In the last year, the food bank served 5,979 people, of which 1,478 were children. That means in this financial year we have seen an increase in our overall numbers coming to the foodbank by 7%. When we look at the stats and break the number down even further, we can see that the increase is in the number of households without children or young people (CYP), this has gone up by 15% and the households with CYP has decreased by 1%. Trussell Trust yearly stats for 2024-2025 show that 2.9 million emergency food parcels were given out across the UK. Thus, showing that foodbanks are still a very much needed service across the UK but most importantly within our local community.

We gave out 53 tonnes of food, which is approx., 1,016kg per week relating to 100 boxes each week on average. Our busiest month was September 2025 where we gave out 5,642kg of food to our distribution centres, with our quietest month being April 2025 where we gave 1,035kg to our distribution centres. We worked in partnership with 62 statutory and voluntary agencies, with our main partner being Edinburgh Food Project Money Advice Service and Turning Point (a voluntary organisation that supports people with addictions). The main reasons for referral to the foodbank, in the last year were low income, benefit delays and benefit changes. The food bank received 24 tonnes of food from community and corporate donors, which is a slight increase on the previous year. The increase has meant we haven't needed to purchase as much, to maintain our operations. In the last year we have purchased 29 tonnes of stock. We had food collections, at Asda and Tesco, these food collections have helped with the donations coming into the warehouse. We will be looking at other ways we can generate more income to purchase stock, such as fundraisers, and more additional food collections. Last year we did plan to set up a newsletter for donors, however this did not happen, we do have plans to develop this newsletter in the coming year, and it will be sent out mid-year, to inform our supporters, with the hope that it might generate some further collections.

We undertook 2 talks this year, both of which were in local primary schools. One of our volunteers went along to support a school assembly, the other one was supported by the General Manager who went along and did a talk with a P5 class, about Poverty and its impact on society. The class then did a school assembly around poverty and foodbanks, with a whole school food drive taking place. We have also been involved with the local High School and their Young Philanthropy Project (YPI). This is where groups of pupils pick local charities, learn about their work and then do a presentation. The school vote on the presentation, and the charity that wins receives

£3,000. On this occasion we were not the winning charity however the richness of this project is not the winning but learning about what goes on in the community and pupils work collaborative to gain that knowledge.

The General Manager has been involved with the Edinburgh Trussell Trust Network Group, this group was setup by the Trussell Trust area manager, and the 4 Trussell Trust Foodbanks in Edinburgh. It is a relatively unique situation to have 4 Foodbanks in one city, and it was felt that a collaborative approach to how we operate across the city was needed. There have been 5 meetings throughout the year, the main topic of discussion was around the Financial Inclusion funding which comes to an end in June 2026.

We have been in partnership with Edinburgh Food Project Money Advice Service (MAS), for the last year. This service has taken place in our foodbanks, providing money advice to our service users. We have had 2 advisers covering our 4 centres, with 16 sessions being covered per month (192 session in the year).

The service is available to every foodbank user, and in the last year the service has had interactions with 406 service users, it has secured a total of £154,729 in financial gains for service users, which equates to 49 people gaining £3,157.75 in their pockets.

As well as building relationships with other foodbanks the General Manager has also been working in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies across the city, particularly those within the Leith community. The General Manager attended monthly meetings with the Leith Network Forum. This forum is made up of other voluntary agencies within the community; it focuses on how we can all work together to support those in need. Being part of this forum allows the foodbank to be an integrated service within the community, we have gained greater knowledge of what is happening within the community, giving us richer resources to support our foodbank service users.

We have also been working in partnership with Turning Point, this is a charity which supports people with addictions, their outreach team, also provide support with housing issues. We have two advisers that cover 3 of our centres, with 12 sessions being covered per month (144 per year).

The Leith Pantry ran from November 2024 to August 2025. From November to December 2024 there were 30 members, in December 2024 there was a review of membership, and our membership was reduced to 10 members. This was mostly due to members not meeting the criteria of the Pantry membership and having enough money to now buy the everyday essentials. From January 2025 to May 2025 the membership did not increase, this was largely due to the MAS, supporting foodbank service users to access more money, which resulted in fewer referrals to the Pantry. The Management Board decided to close the Pantry as of 31st of August 2025.

The General Manager has been supported by the Management Board; at the start of our financial year there were 6 Management Board members. At the start of January 2025 our Chair informed the Management Board that he was stepping down in August 2025. At our AGM in May we had another Management Board Member step down. In July 2025, we recruited an interim Chair for 6 months, this will be reviewed, as well as a recruitment drive for new Management Board Members. The recruitment drive was very successful with 9 applicants, of which 3 were interviewed and 2 will become new Management Board Members at our next AGM. There were 4 Management Board meetings this year, along with our AGM. At our AGM we had a good representation of volunteers and the General Manager did a presentation on "A cup of tea", which is an initiative that Trussell are encouraging all foodbanks to take part in, whereby tea, coffee and chat is provided for foodbank service users at each foodbank session.

The General Manager has been setting up small café style areas, in each of the foodbanks to allow us to offer a "Cup of Tea" and a chat to our foodbank service users. This has gone down well, and will be further developed over the next year, whereby we will recruit specific volunteers for the café style area, to chat with service users.

The foodbank relies on volunteers for its operation, and has a well-established team of approx., 60 volunteers, who work across our 5 centres, our warehouse and on our van. All volunteers are supported by the General Manager and team leaders at each of our distribution centres. During the year we held 3 volunteer meetings, where volunteers receive updates, shared real life stories and learning points. We undertook safeguarding training with all our volunteers, so they were up to date with policy and procedures.

We started our Investing in Volunteer award, this is a quality assurance award, which values the work volunteers do within an organisation. A working group was set up to look at the standards, and to set out a plan on what areas we needed to develop to gain this award. During this process it became clear that to value and support the volunteers, we needed a volunteer coordinator. The General Manager sought funding and we recruited a volunteer coordinator in December 2025. We are happy to report that we achieved the award in March 2026.

In the last year, the food bank has benefited from several permanent collection points including Tesco Leith, Tesco Express Leith, Tesco Express Northfield, Asda Newhaven, Easter Greens and one of our local Lidl stores. Due to closure of stores, we lost our collection point at Poundland Meadowbank. The amount of food donated has increased slightly this year, having our regular supermarket collections has reminded customers of the food collection points in store and it is hoped that we will continue to receive donations from the general public. The food bank Management Board is most appreciative of food donations at special times of year e.g. at Easter and Christmas fares, which all add to helping restore dignity and hope for the many clients who use our food bank. We continue to provide the Scotmid vouchers, however these were given out over the winter months only, when people were more in need, due to rise in fuel costs and cold weather. Our meal voucher project is well established and used regularly by clients however due to the café being closed for 5 months we were unable to supply vouchers during this time. It is hoped that the café will open in the year ahead and we will continue to provide this service, as long as funding allows.

As we move into the new financial year as in previous years, one of our biggest challenges is going to be maintaining our stock levels, although we saw a small increase in donations, if our increase in service users continues, we will still need to purchase more food. We will therefore need to look at other ways to access food, so we can maintain our operations.

The other challenge will be continuing the Money Advice Service, with Edinburgh Food Project, with funding for the service coming to an end in June 2026, we may need to support the service within our foodbank centres by seeking funding. This will also be a challenge as the funding streams across the city are very competitive.

We will be developing the café style areas within the centres, with a more welcoming approach to the foodbank, and will have dedicated volunteers, who service users can chat too whilst they get their food parcels.

Financial Review

Summary

The food bank continues to be financially secure, however general income reduced from 2024 by £10,243, reflecting the current economic climate. The year end bank and cash balances totalled £226,613, a decrease on last years figure of £259,173. The deficit for the year is £32,560, is a reduction from last year's deficit of £47,923 however we received £20,000 grant income at the end of the 2025 financial year which was not utilised until the 2026 accounting period (see Grants below). We anticipated a deficit this year due to the reduction in general income and an increase in food costs. As with last year we are in a position to keep 4 weeks stock in the warehouse. Stock is not accounted for in these accounts.

Main source of funding

We continue to benefit from the generosity of the general public, local community and businesses across the City. We have a steady stream of standing orders and Justgiving donations.

Grants

A grant was received this year totalling £20,000 from Bank of Scotland Foundation for the purpose of employing a member of staff to develop volunteer opportunities. The funds were received in September 2025 with our new staff member joining us in January 2026. As noted previously we are happy to announce that we were awarded the Invest in Volunteer award in March 2026. The grant agreement allows for a further drawdown of £20,000 in September 2026.

JustGiving

Justgiving continues to bring in significant donations, totalling £28,079 this year, a reduction from last year's figure of £39,436.

Standing orders

Standing orders continue to bring in a steady amount of donations totalling just over £33,134 in this financial year.

Expenditure

Expenditure reduced by 3% on the previous year. Food costs increased slightly due to inflation, but we are very prudent in our purchase of food and this year the majority of purchased food was sourced from wholesalers. We did not top up our Scotmid vouchers of £5,000 until November 2025. Salary costs reduced slightly with a slight cut in hours worked. Pantry costs were lower as we sadly stopped its operation in August of 2025. Warehouse costs are slightly higher than last year, again mostly due to inflation.

Reserves Policy

1. **Description of the charity, its beneficiaries and its funding streams.**

Our funding comes from individuals and organisations within Edinburgh and wider Scotland. We receive regular donations by standing order which supports, in large part, our day-to-day operational expenses. Reserves are used to support new initiatives i.e. the food pantry. They are also used primarily to purchase food supplies for both the food bank and pantry.

2. **The rationale behind the reserves policy.**

Our reserve policy is based upon possible reductions on funding from individuals and organisations. Having reserves of one year's operating costs which includes staff, premises and food purchased, we believe would allow the food bank to operate and look to other funding sources if current sources dried up.

3. **The level of reserves required.**

We believe we need one year of reserves which at current levels is £166,000.

4. **How and when the reserves policy will be reviewed.**

The food bank will monitor the reserves policy on a six-monthly basis and fully review it on a yearly basis considering the previous year's funding sources and predicted expenditure in the coming three years of operation.

Notes to the Accounts—for the year ended 31 October 2025

1. **Basis of Accounting**

   These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2. **Nature and Purpose of Funds**

   Unrestricted funds are those that can be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day to day running of the charity. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. Two bank accounts are held but restricted funds, since not common, will be managed manually.

3. **Donations**

   Over 1000 financial donations were received over the year. Many were from the general public but also many companies contacted us to make donations and ranged from whatever people could afford to some very significant amounts, all of which are very much appreciated by the foodbank. Many of these donations are also not just one off but support in an ongoing and continuing way by standing order and repeated donations

4. **Grants Received**

Bank of Scotland Foundation	£20,000

5. **Cost of Charitable Activities**

   This covers small miscellaneous costs incurred in carrying out the function.

6. **Governance Costs**

   This is an honorarium for the examiner of the accounts.

7. **Restricted Funds**

   The fund for Leith Community Café continues with the year-end balance for the supply of hot meals is £4,451.

Future Plans

Our focus for the next year, will be to look at funding streams to support our operations, we will also continue our money advice service and look at engaging with other support services to see if they can have a presence at the foodbank centres.

We will continue to develop the café style model at each of our foodbank centres, making a warm welcome and a chat central to our support service, allowing service users a safe space to chat with volunteers and access support.

Having additional support on site for service users, will hopefully help reduce the need for them to access the foodbank in the future.

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2025

			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 31/10/2025	Year ended 31/10/2024
Receipts						
Donations			£ 112,772.71	£ -	£ 112,772.71	£ 120,367.83
Grants			£ 20,000.00	£ -	£ 20,000.00	£ -
Fundraising			£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Pantry			£ 6,986.71	£ -	£ 6,986.71	£ 10,470.45
Interest			£ 4,454.00	£ -	£ 4,454.00	£ 3,618.12
Total Receipts			£ 144,213.42	£ -	£ 144,213.42	£ 134,456.40
Payments						
	Staffing Costs		£ 40,776.42		£ 40,776.42	£ 43,321.87
	Warehouse Running Costs		£ 21,713.27		£ 21,713.27	£ 20,372.49
	Foodbank Costs	Food Supplies	£ 63,628.57	£ 2,913.30	£ 66,541.87	£ 64,362.93
		Scotmid Vouchers	£ -		£ -	£ 5,000.00
		Transport	£ 6,874.96	£ -	£ 6,874.96	£ 6,018.50
		Insurance	£ 411.60	£ -	£ 411.60	£ 541.03
		Cost of Charitable Activities	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00	£ -
		Governance	£ 52.00	£ -	£ 52.00	£ 190.00
		Clothing	£ -		£ -	£ -
	Investing in volunteering		£ 2,515.00	£ -	£ 2,515.00	£ -
	Food Pantry Costs		£ 37,688.08	£ -	£ 37,688.08	£ 42,573.20
Total Payments			£ 173,859.90	£ 2,913.30	£ 176,773.20	£ 182,380.02
Surplus/(Deficit) for year			(£ 29,646.48)	(£ 2,913.30)	(£ 32,559.78)	-£ 47,923.62

Statement of Balances as at 31 October 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 31/10/2025	Year ended 31/10/2024
Opening Cash at bank and in hand	£ 251,809.18	£ 7,364.00	£ 259,173.18	£ 307,096.80
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(£ 29,646.48)	(£ 2,913.30)	(£ 32,559.78)	(£ 47,923.62)
Closing cash at bank and in hand	£ 222,162.70	£ 4,450.70	£ 226,613.40	£ 259,173.18
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank Accounts	£ 222,162.70	£ 4,450.70	£ 226,613.40	£ 259,173.18
	£ 222,162.70	£ 4,450.70	£ 226,613.40	£ 259,173.18

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on

Signed			
	Rob Levick	Jimmy Hudson	Michelle Grant
Dated	16/6/26	16.6.26	14/6/26

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations 2006

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 44(1)© of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination of the statement of account for the year ended 31 October 2025, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records have not been kept in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- The accounts do not accord with these records
- The statement of accounts do not comply with any of the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed ....

Dated ....23/6/26..........

Eddie Thorn FCIBS

158 Craigleith Road

Edinburgh

EH4 2EQ