

WORLD FOOD DAY, UK MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK AND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY - 16th October 2019

Initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Day 16th October 2019 is organised to bring awareness to how our changing planet affects food production and distribution. This week is UK Malnutrition Awareness Week set up to raise awareness and campaign to take action to identify and prevent malnutrition. On 17th October it is also the International Day of the Eradication of Poverty.

There is plenty of statistical and anecdotal evidence proving that poverty and hunger blights many British families lives. This has not been seen as widely in our society since before the Second World War. This national scandal means the growing number of food banks and food parcels being doled out to our citizens ensures their lives are sustained by charity rather than well paid jobs and a welfare state. Over 3 million people across the UK are either malnourished or at risk of becoming malnourished, and an estimated one million of these people are over the age of 65.

Chris Peace, North East Derbyshire Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, said: "Many people in receipt of pensions and benefits, including those in work on low wages, are having to choose between 'heat or eat'. This is seriously damaging the lives of many children, pensioners and families in North East Derbyshire. As the 5th richest country in the world a Labour Government would build a fairer Britain where everybody is able to get on in life, have security at work and at home, be decently paid for the work they do, and to live their lives free from hunger, with the dignity they deserve"

North Derbyshire Unite Community organiser, Colin Hampton said: "The administration of the Tories damaging Universal Credit system has plunged people into further poverty. Delayed payments are causing hunger and debt, making people more reliant on food banks and welfare rights advice. Our ability to support and advise people is also being sabotaged by recent Tory funding cuts to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre. Hunger and food poverty is cruelty beyond belief"

Notes

The Trussell Trust

<https://www.trusselltrust.org>

According to the Trussell Trust: In 2009/10 the Trussell Trust handed out 41, 000 food parcels.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/2019/04/25/record-1-6m-food-bank-parcels/> During the past year, (April 2018 – March 2019) 1,583,668 three-day emergency food supplies were given to people in crisis in the UK; More than half a million of these (577,618) went to children. Over 75,000 were handed out in the East Midlands (covering N.E. Derbyshire). This is an 18.8% increase on the previous year. In the past 5 years foodbank use has increased by 73%.

<https://fullfact.org/economy/how-many-people-use-food-banks/>

Malnutrition Awareness Week

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/uk-malnutrition-awareness-week-2019/>

World Food Day

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-food-day-2019/>

International Day of the Eradication of Poverty

<https://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/>

Citizens Advice, North East Derbyshire, Foodbanks

<http://www.nedcab.org.uk/foodbanks.shtml>

Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre

<http://www.duwc.org.uk/>