



The People's Takeaway



THE NEWSLETTER FOR EAST DURHAM'S FLAGSHIP PROJECT

NUMBER OF MEALS DELIVERED:

AS OF:

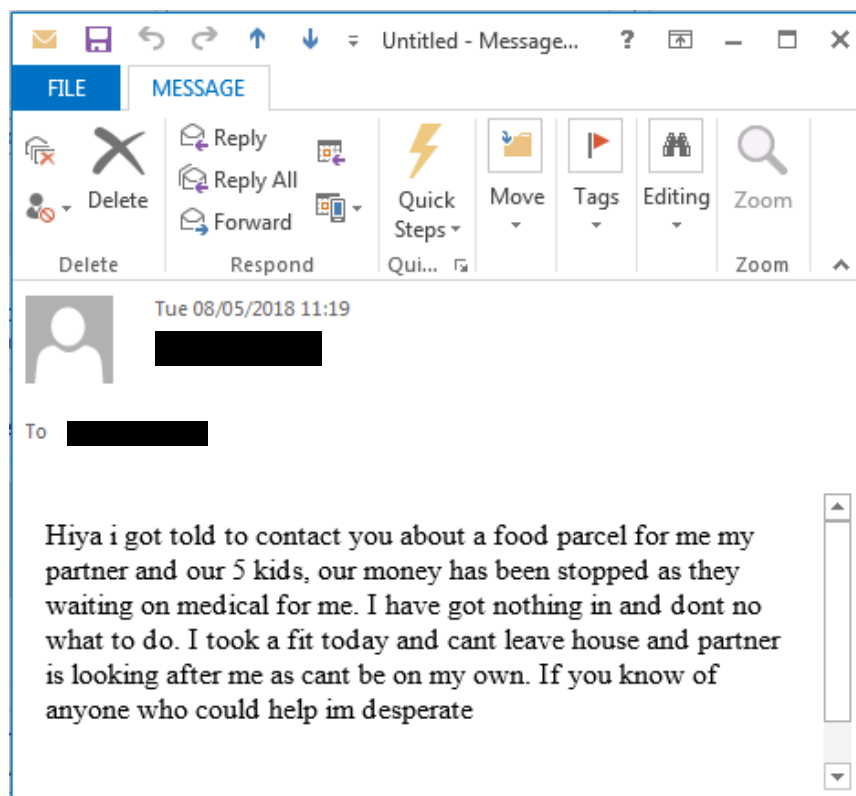
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1ST MAY 2018

A CRY FOR HELP...

The true impact of welfare reform, Universal Credit, zero hour contracts and other factors is often best reflected in the words of those most deeply affected.

The following cry for help is reproduced directly from an email received by East Durham Trust from a young mother of five in Seaham:



The People's Takeaway provided Jane and Rob's family with a much needed hot meal, helping support them through ongoing financial issues and hardship. Jane* and Rob* have two children and are awaiting Universal Credit. With no other income they are relying on emergency food parcels to feed their family. They also have a debt advisor supporting them to deal with their financial deficit. Lack of income has caused the family to fall in to rent arrears, struggle to pay their gas and electric and has left them unable to pay for food and other living costs.

JANE AND ROB'S STORY



EARLY DEMAND EVEN GREATER THAN EXPECTED

Despite witnessing a massive increase in the demand for emergency food parcels in recent years, staff and volunteers at East Durham Trust have been surprised at the level of take up for the People's Takeaway Service.

At this early stage, the project has been limited to a Friday twilight service and utilises a number of community kitchens in venues such as Haswell Mencap. However, the single delivery slot is not limiting the number of people being supported and as building work gets underway at Community House, there is a clear case for expansion.

Most of the referrals into the project are coming through existing projects aimed at alleviating hardship and crisis such as the Food Emergency East Durham (FEED) and Stop Poverty in East Durham (SPIED) projects. As CEO Malcolm Fallow explained, "The People's Takeaway service is clearly a lifeline for individuals and families who we support with food parcels, debt advice benefit claims and so on." In reaction to the initial take up he added "Of course we knew there was a strong case for a meal delivery service but the initial demand tells us than an early extension and expansion of the project is crucial."

SYLVIA'S STORY



Sylvia* is a single parent with four children all under the age of 10. She recently had a house fire, which has left the property uninhabitable and is living with various family members whilst trying to arrange being re-housed. Due to the property being badly damaged, Sylvia* is struggling to find the money to replace essential items as well as keeping her children and herself fed. The People's Takeaway provided her and her family with a desperately needed hot meal in this time of crisis.

BUILDING WORK COMMENCES



Since Christmas we have been utilising community kitchens and even local takeaways to provide a service to desperate families. However, it has always been the intention to provide a permanent and sustainable facility by converting an existing room at Community House- the home of East Durham Trust - in to the official People's Takeaway kitchen.

We can now report that the local building company Aknon has been appointed and refurbishment work has commenced. The work will mean the temporary displacement of our colleagues from Hartlepool and East Durham MIND, but as Deputy Manager Lindsey Wood explained the short term upheaval will prove worth enduring in the longer term; "Having a permanent focus for the project has always been our intention. We know that as the service becomes more widely known demand will only grow - only by having a dedicated space can we respond to this demand.

A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Last week various newspapers published a study by the TUC revealing that the number of children growing up in poverty in working households will be a million higher than in 2010. About 3.1 million children of working parents were found to be living below the breadline after the effect of the government's benefit cuts have hit working families. Frances O'Grady, the TUC general secretary, said; "Years of falling incomes and benefit cuts have had a terrible human cost. Millions of parents are struggling to feed and clothe their kids," she said.

Figures like this demonstrate that now more than ever, initiatives like the People's Takeaway are desperately needed to support the ever growing number of struggling families across the country.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

This year we will see many people in East Durham with nowhere else to turn, supported by our new People's Takeaway initiative.

This has only been made possible by the kind support of our donors:

Angela Abbott • Brendan Atkinson • Graeme Atkinson • Trevor Atkinson • Ben Ayrton • Ann Bainbridge • Eric Bainbridge • Joanne Baker • Mark Bell • Susie Bolchover • Lisbeth Bourne • Denise Brookes • Chris & Annabel Burns • Emily Burns • Paul Callaghan • Laura Cassidy • Jean Connor • C Cooke • County Durham Housing Group • Stefano Cremonesi • Lucy Critchley • Michael Crowder • Gillian Cruddance • Brodie Cyster-White • Martin Davey • Lena Devine • Jacqueline Dooley • Kevin Dosdale • Dr Steve Drury • Harinder Dulai • Durham Miners Association • East Durham College • Sarah Fairclough • Ellen Fallow • Glen Fallow • Glenda Fallow • John and Lizzy Fallow • Madelaine Fallow-Hudson • Malcolm Fallow • Nigel Fallow • Raymond Fallow • Rory Fallow • Elizabeth Fekete • Winifred Finley • Frankie and the Heartstrings • Yvonne Frost • Maureen Gilbert • Gloria Gorton • Graham Grundy • Toby Hardwick • Rona Hardy • Will Haughan • Deborah Heckles • Jillian Hindmarsh • Alice Howard • Howlatch Residents Association • Richard Howard • Stephen Hudson • Jess Hunt • Colin Jackson • Elis James • Karen Jones • Anne Jefferies • Dr Heather Kelly • Eleanor King • Hannah King • Leslie King • Alex Kirton • Labour Party Easington • Audrey Laing • L Langley • Left Field Durham • Elizabeth Leicester • Dr Iain Lindsey • Myrtle MacPherson • Dave McKenna • Marion McKenna • Dr Lewis Mates • Andy Matfield • Emma Maxwell • Alan Miller • Angela Miller • Sue Miller • Katy Mitchell • Grahame Morris MP • Grahame Morris' Office • David Murphy • NCS North East Students • Paul & Debbie Noble • Alys North • Alison Nutter • Marc Oliver • Nicole Orr • Dr Andrew Orton • Pam Parkin • Everyone from the People's Bookshop • Pop Recs Ltd • Fraser Raitt • Sanjee Ratnatunga • Katrina Roberts • John Robins • Svetlana Robson • Louise Sanders • Sue and Steve Sanderson • Audrey Segell • Julie Shaw • Ambalavaner Sivanandan • Kathryn Slater • Alan Smith • Joe Solo • Mary Stratford • Sharon Tait • Lisa Taylor • David Temple • Rachel Thompson • Kathryn Thubron • Claire Usher • Tony Walsh • Jack Warne • Una Wilding • James Williams • Mary Winn • Lindsey Wood • Paul Woodhead • Kathleen Wotton

It is with great sadness that we heard that one of our supporters passed away since the publication of our last newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of Ambalavaner Sivanandan, a leading intellectual of the left who changed the way race relations were viewed in the UK. Sivanandan (20 December 1923 – 3 January 2018) was a Sri Lankan novelist, and director of the Institute of Race Relations, a London-based independent educational charity. His first novel, *When Memory Dies*, won the 1998 Commonwealth Writers' Prize in the Best First Book category for Europe and South Asia. We are grateful for his generous donation to the People's Takeaway in the final months of his life.

