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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local food banks set to receive significant boost

42 local food banks across Lincolnshire, and parts of Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, and South Yorkshire, are set to receive vital funding, thanks to Lincolnshire Co-op's Community Champions scheme. *(See notes to editors for full list)*

From **8th March to 5th September**, a donation will be made each time a member shops with their dividend card.

Customers can also donate change when shopping in store, and colleagues and partners will be running food bank drives and other fundraising activities.

During the same period in 2025, the scheme saw over **£242,000** raised for local Macmillan Cancer Support services, so the impact of this fundraising is anticipated to be significant.

According to Trussell Trust, food insecurity is a growing issue across the UK; in 2024, **16% of households** faced food insecurity, rising from 12% in 2022. *(See notes to editors)*

This means that at some point in the previous year, these households ran out of food and couldn't afford more, and reduced the size of their meals, ate less, went hungry or lost weight, due to lack of money.

As well as providing emergency food and hygiene supplies, many food banks offer additional avenues of support.

One food bank selected as a Community Champion is **Holbeach Community Larder**, which also operates a community shop, provides easy access to social subscribers, and signposts to other valuable services in the local area.

Wanda Adams-Stevens, Manager at Holbeach Community Larder, said: *"People come to us for a variety of reasons; perhaps they've encountered an unexpected bill, or they're struggling to manage debt.*

"We've helped retirees, families, working people; anyone could fall into these circumstances, sometimes it only takes one thing to go wrong – like the washing machine breaking, or a hefty car bill.

"For many people, receiving our help can feel quite overwhelming, and there have certainly been some tears along the way! I think it's a feeling of relief for many people, knowing that they've been given a lifeline."

All year round, each Lincolnshire Co-op food store has a donation bin for its local food store, and a list of 'most wanted items' is displayed alongside it.

By contacting their local Community Co-ordinator, groups can have the lists updated, maximising the impact of donations.

Mary Leggett, Senior Community Co-ordinator at Lincolnshire Co-op, said: *"As well as raising funds and encouraging more donations into food stores, our Community Champions campaign aims to raise awareness of the services that food banks provide and break down societal stigmas.*

"Statistics show how many people need food bank support, and in a recent internal survey, many colleagues expressed that they would like to see food banks supported by Community Champions, so we know this is a cause close to many people.

"There will be lots of opportunities to get involved, and we are so excited to see our community come together once again for a great cause."

Ends

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CONTACT DETAILS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Notes to editors:

1. **Lincolnshire Co-op** is an independent co-operative society. Its purpose is to bring together ideas, energy and resources to make life better in communities. It has around 300,000 members and 2,900 local colleagues in Lincolnshire and the surrounding counties and an elected board of directors who oversee the business.

The society provides **valued services** and supports the **local economy** from outlets across its trading area including food stores, filling stations, post offices, travel branches, funeral homes, a florist, a crematorium and community libraries. It also cares for people's **health and wellbeing** through its pharmacies and support for a network of wellbeing walks. Local good causes benefit through its Community Champions scheme and together, colleagues and members also look after the **local environment** through volunteering.

As well as its trading outlets, Lincolnshire Co-op owns properties, from flats and houses to commercial premises. The society brings land and buildings back into use to create attractive environments. With Lincolnshire Co-op as landlord, rents stay local and are invested in schemes that benefit the community.

2. Food banks supported through the scheme include:

Agape Care Foodbank (Spalding)

Bardney Pantry

Barton Area Food Bank

Bassetlaw Food Bank

Bilsthorpe emergency team

Birchwood Foodbank

Boston Food Bank

Bourne Foodbank

Branston All Saints Food Bank

Caistor Food Bank

Clipstone Food Hub

Collingham and Area Good Pantry

Community Action Response (Ollerton and Warsop)

Crowland Community Larder

Destiny Outreach Coningsby

Epworth Foodbank

Gainsborough Salvation Army Food Bank

Grantham Foodbank
Holbeach Community Larder
Horncastle Community Larder
Hull Foodbank
Ingoldmells Chapel & Addlethorpe.
Isle of Axholme Foodshare project
Lincoln Community Larder
Lincoln Foodbank
Long Sutton Food Larder
Louth Community Larder
Market Rasen Salvation Army
Newark Foodbank
Oikos-Brigg
Rock Foundation Community Hub (Grimsby)
Scunthorpe
Selby & District Foodbank
Skegness Foodbank
Sleaford Community Larder
Spilsby and District community Larder
Storehouse Church Alford
Sutton Bridge Community Larder
We are One (Outreach North East) (Grimsby)
Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid
Woodhall spa and Kirkby Food Bank
Wragby Food Bank

3. According to Trussell Trust, food insecurity is a growing issue across the UK; in 2024, 16% of households faced food insecurity, rising from 12% in 2022.
(<https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/publications/report/hunger-in-the-uk-2025>)