

FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016

Attn: Local Reporters

**LOCAL MSPS COMMEND VOLUNTEERS AND
HIGHLIGHT SHORTAGES ON VISIT TO FOODBANK**



Two MSPs, both representing different parts of Levenmouth, this week visited the Levenmouth Foodbank in Methil to see first-hand the work done by volunteers.

Jenny Gilruth MSP, whose constituency of Mid Fife and Glenrothes takes in Leven and Kennoway, and David Torrance MSP, whose constituency of Kirkcaldy also covers Methil and Buckhaven, met with Foodbank Coordinator Stewart English discuss

The Foodbank has already handed out over 700 emergency food packages to local people this year, including more than 100 in August alone. However, though the Foodbank receives regular donations, there are currently shortages of some particular items that both Jenny Gilruth MSP and David Torrance MSP were keen to highlight, in the hope that local people would come forward to help out with donations.

Commenting Mid Fife and Glenrothes MSP, Jenny Gilruth said:

“The volunteers at Levenmouth Foodbank do a huge amount for the local community and I admire their dedication to helping others locally. It is the sad reality than in 2016 there are families in Levenmouth who rely on this Foodbank for emergency food packages.

“I was particularly alarmed to learn that around 48% of these people had to resort to using the Levenmouth foodbank because of delays in benefits or benefit sanctions. It is not acceptable that families are being put in such a desperate situation as a result of falling through the cracks in the social security system.”

David Torrance MSP for Kirkcaldy, added: “It’s great to see the Levenmouth community banding together to support those in need. Levenmouth Foodbank, the volunteers and the donations from local residents go a long way towards supporting people who are often in very difficult and desperate situations.”

David added: “It is disgraceful that the UK Government’s policies on benefit cuts and sanctions have created such a dependency on foodbanks for so many people. Given the huge success of the Scottish food and drink industry, it is absurd that local people are struggling to feed their families. The Scottish Government will continue to do everything it can to alleviate this pressure and support those in need.”

On learning that the Foodbank currently has shortages of certain items, such as coffee, rice, pasta, potatoes and diluting juices, Jenny Gilruth MSP added:

“I want to appeal to local people who may be able to help out in addressing the shortages of these items. I know there is a strong community spirit in Levenmouth and I’m hopeful that people will see the vital work the Foodbank is doing and be willing to donate where they can.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Picture: David Torrance MSP (left) and Jenny Gilruth MSP (right), with Stewart English, Coordinator at Levenmouth Foodbank.

The foodbank is most in need of the following items:

- Rice Pudding
- Sugar
- Potatoes
- Rice
- Pasta
- Coffee
- Juice

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