



Annual Impact Report

Baby Bank Network



2025/26

Baby Bank Network

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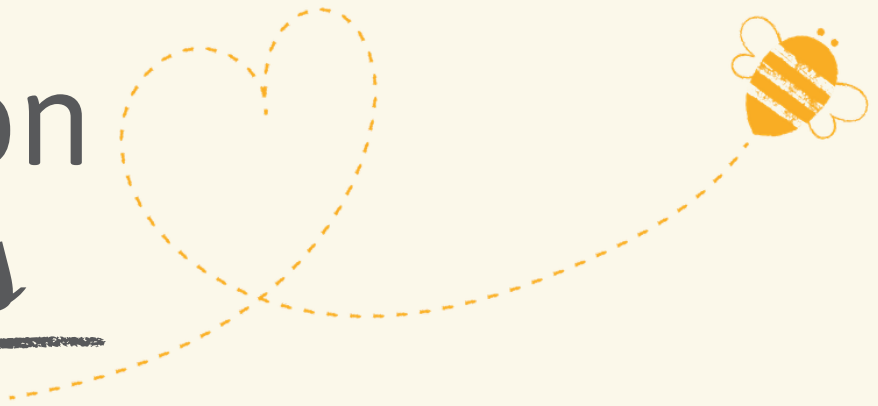
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“Her biggest worry was, ‘What can I give my child while I’m in this situation?’ The fact that so many charities came together made a massive difference because Baby Bank provided things she couldn’t have given her daughter on her own. And this is part of a bigger picture – it’s not just clothes for a mum in a vulnerable situation – the team at Baby Bank likes to make the women they support feel loved at such a vulnerable time in their life. It’s so fundamental.”

Referral partner

Our vision and values



Our vision is that no young child in Bristol goes without the basics they need to be safe and to thrive.

We work with Bristol communities to ensure babies and young children have access to essential items to relieve poverty and its impact on young children, while encouraging reuse and reducing waste.

Our values

Local

We help families thrive with the help of donations and support from our community and amazing volunteers who work to get items to those who need them most.

Sustainable

We work with our local community including reuse and recycling projects to promote good environmental practice. We aim to minimise waste and redistribute all suitable donations.

Collaborative

We team up with referral partners to help us reach families most in need of support. We seek to collaborate with partners and other organisations whose goals align with our vision.

Open and accountable

We are fair, efficient and transparent in the way we run our charity.

Stories from our community

"I don't think there are any words to thank you enough for the baby bank items today. We are completely overwhelmed by what we have received (in the most wonderful way!) and so thankful for the referral you made. This has come at such a tricky time for all but has really filled a hole we weren't sure we would get out of without support."

Family supported by Baby Bank Network

Welcome from our Chair



It has been just over a year since I commenced in post as Chair of the Board of Trustees, where I have really enjoyed working with our trustees, staff and volunteers to support our mission in alleviating child poverty in our local communities and promoting reuse.

Baby Bank Network is thrilled to have reached its 11th year, having supported more than 12,400 families to date. When reflecting on the last year, we are pleased to have carefully grown and expanded our Board, staff, volunteer network, and HQ as part of our strategy to extend our capacity and reach. We have welcomed two new trustees – Gemma Rudrum, Treasurer, and Federica Foti, Referral Partner representative, and are delighted to have their valuable insights. We are also thrilled to have more storage space which means we can help more families.

A huge thank you to our staff team who have worked tirelessly to review our hub environment, where our increased capacity has enabled us to provide a better experience for our service users, volunteers, and staff. We are so grateful for the support of our staff, who work hard to operationalise and implement our strategic visions and mission.

We would also like to thank our volunteers, without whom we could not carry out the valuable activities that help produce our baby bundles and family packs.

The compassion demonstrated is something we are so thankful for, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

One highlight this year was our Santa's Sack Christmas appeal which raised over £30,000 and was our most successful campaign to date. More than 140 people donated to our match-funded Big Give Christmas Challenge, and many more supported through gifts in kind and unmatched donations. We are so grateful to every single one of you.

I am also mindful of the rising costs of living that so many of us are experiencing, and the subsequent increased need for support. Research commissioned by Baby Bank Alliance shows that UK baby banks supported 400,000 children in 2025, an increase of 11% from 2024, yet only 31%¹ of the public are aware of the services baby banks offer. Therefore, we are committed to raising the profile of baby banks, as part of our work with the Baby Bank Alliance.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to our supporters, donors, funders, families, staff, volunteers, partners and trustees, without whom we could not achieve our ambitions. We will reference some specific highlights of the last year throughout this report, and I look forward to continuing to work together to make a difference to our community.

Karen Houseman, Chair of Trustees

1. Research from Baby Bank Alliance



Our highlights 2025/26



This year we have supported 1427 local families!

We've doubled the size of our storage hub meaning we can have more bundles of essentials ready for when families need them.

One third of our bundles now go out in our new delivery van.

This year we expanded our capacity by growing our team and our HQ. We've also extended our reach across the city and with more organisations, thanks to our recently donated delivery van and new driver.

Laying these essential foundations puts us in a stronger position to meet the increasing need for the services we offer to local families experiencing poverty or crisis.

Our new emergency hospital bundles, developed in partnership with Southmead Hospital, have enabled us to support families by providing essentials for their newborn, at a time when they need it most. Read more about this project on page 15.



Stories from our community

"I worked with a family with a newborn and a one-year-old, and they didn't have a pram. The dad asked if they could have a double or even two prams so they could all go out together. I messaged Baby Bank – they'd just received a double pram, so they brought it to me. They have a new delivery service so they can now deliver to your office, it's fantastic."

In the past we had more of a wait for items, but now they have more items available because they've been able to develop more collaborations and with their delivery service, the team can be even more proactive."

Federica, referral partner trustee

Why we do what we do



Our Baby Bank journey began with a search to rehome baby clothes to local families who needed them most. Over the years, that need has increased and with it our determination to support families who are feeling financial pressure or navigating adversity.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is far reaching, with 2 in every 10 working-age adults in the UK living in poverty. Families and young children are disproportionately affected with **around 3 in every 10 children experiencing poverty**.¹

In Bristol, 25% of children are living in low-income families with some wards experiencing rates exceeding 50%.² In addition, there are families in our community going through an unexpected crisis. Some need to flee their home suddenly and may find themselves with nothing.

These families may be unable to provide a safe place for their children to sleep, suitable clothes or sufficient toiletries. When a family cannot afford necessities for their children the impacts can be distressing and long-lasting. This level of deprivation can have a serious effect on the wellbeing, health and future outcomes for children who are unable to access the basics they need to survive – let alone thrive.

"Some of the women Baby Bank supports have experienced exploitation; they've had to run away, change their name and where they live. Many people in this situation need practical, material support. Sometimes to get someone the support they need, you have to ask about traumatic things that have happened to them. Being able to give them nice clothes for their baby is such a lovely thing to do. It's a happy occasion in between the heavy stuff." Referral partner



1. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation – UK Poverty 2026: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK
2. Department for Work and Pensions – Children in low-income families: local area statistics 2022 to 2025

Why we do what we do



Our focus on hygiene poverty

We work with families to help reduce the impacts of poverty on their children. Our projects focus on establishing safe sleep, supporting child development and mental health, and alleviating hygiene poverty.

In the UK, 4.2 million adults are living in hygiene poverty¹. This means they cannot access basic hygiene essentials such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo and laundry detergent for themselves or their families.

Imagine being unable to afford nappies for your baby or detergent to wash your child's school uniform.

Toiletry packs are requested in most of our bundles – we gave out 1320 this year – and the largest share of our project budget is spent on supporting families with hygiene poverty. We want to share why this is important to us alongside reporting on our impact.

1.1 million children living in the UK currently experience hygiene poverty – that's 4 children in every classroom.²

Children are missing school because they lack the basic hygiene essentials many of us take for granted. These children report that their mental health, social life, physical wellbeing and education suffer as a result – leading to shame, anxiety and depression.

100%

of referral partners said that our service helped to increase/improve the support they were able to give to families

A story from our community about the difference we make

"The packages Baby Bank send to families are so lovely, they look like new. Some mums feel so much guilt about not being able to give their baby what they deserve. They go without to ensure their baby has what it needs.

A newborn baby bundle has so much stuff, we get to see how grateful the families are, it's the biggest thing for them to receive these things for their baby. It's just a very practical, tangible thing that makes such a huge difference – being able to put their children in nice clothes that they wouldn't otherwise be able to without Baby Bank." Referral partner

1. The Hygiene Bank 2. A Clean Start in Life report from In Kind Direct

The difference we make

We provide a safe place to sleep

Low-income groups have a raised risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.¹ We hope to reduce this risk by providing safe sleeping equipment including cots and Moses baskets, alongside bedding and brand-new mattresses.

We help alleviate hygiene poverty

Toiletry kits are one of our most requested items. We gave out 1320 kits this year, 940 for babies and 380 for mums. If the family bought these new, they would cost around £35 per baby and £26 per mum. We also provided 205 changing items, 164 baby baths and 33 cloth nappy sets.

We support child development and mental health

The Millennium Cohort Study shows that children living in poverty are four times more likely to develop mental health problems by the age of 11. By collaborating with our referral partners to provide what these families need, and launching new projects to support their children's development, we seek to help improve their mental health outcomes.

Did you know our donation points are a huge help but we spend £8000 to £9000 per year on toiletries for our families topping up donations to meet demand.

Impact this year

Reduced parental stress and anxiety

- 95% of families said receiving items from Baby Bank made them worry less about money
- 96% said they were less stressed about providing for their baby

Reduced isolation

- 64% of families said the items helped them to get out and about more

Safer home environments

- 81% of families said the items helped to keep the baby safe
- 96% of referral partners said the items enabled families to be better equipped to support the development of their children

Support frontline professionals with preventative and crisis-response work

- 97% said using our service and items generated positive discussion with the family they were supporting
- 100% said our service helped to increase/improve the support they were able to give to families
- 99% said that using our service strengthened their relationship with the family

1. The Lullaby Trust

Our story

The beginning



After I had my second baby, I was searching for somewhere to take the clothes she'd grown out of where they were needed most. Local charity shops were overflowing and couldn't accept any more. Online research told me that people were asking the same question on a national level, but no one had sufficient resources or space to take action. **It seemed such an obvious gap.**

I came across the idea of a baby bank – Stripey Stork in Surrey had been operating for about 18 months – and what a great idea it was. It kept me awake thinking 'someone should do something about it' and it dawned on me that maybe I could.

I found a social media post from Eva (see page 10) wanting to connect with anyone interested in the idea. It turned out we were neighbours, and soon we had a plan. We put it to some health visitors, and they loved the idea.

We held a meeting and did a call out for volunteers – so many people came, and **many of those people are still supporting us today.** We divvied up roles, pulled up our sleeves and cracked on! Nicola from Stripy Stork was incredibly generous with her time and advice.

We always knew we wanted Baby Bank to be about local families supporting other local families, and have a strong reuse element. We regularly review what we do and how we do, but so far, we have mostly stayed true to our original idea.

Our first donation event was so successful that our storage unit was full. We used overflow storage and everything was packed in boxes from the fruit and veg shop. I remember a volunteer, Suzy, and I loading a trolley with our first order and wheeling it to the car park to meet the health visitor.

We took three referrals in our first week. We'd intended it to be a pilot with three local centres, but soon other potential referral partners contacted us, so we extended it quickly. We've never needed to advertise, word of mouth travelled fast.

Our brilliant team of volunteers were running it all – sorting and packing every day and evening. Our goal was to support 10 families a week. Now it's between 30 and 40 each week. **I never expected to have a team of staff and storage hub, to have helped more than 12,400 families,** to be connected to so many other local organisations, to be a founding member of the Baby Bank Alliance, and to have our own delivery van.

At every point of our journey, it has been about the people. Our volunteers, the families who donate, our referral partners, the families who they refer. None of it would have been possible without a fabulous team pulling together, working hard to get it off the ground and to continuing to help us grow and develop.

Becky Gilbert, Co-founder and Chief Executive of Baby Bank Network



Our story

Finding purpose



Back in 2014, I ran a nursery store on Gloucester Road selling ethical, sustainable baby goods. That's how I ended up at Kind + Jugend in Cologne, one of the world's biggest nursery trade fairs and standing in a huge hall, surrounded by manufacturers selling their wares, having a bit of an existential moment.

I realised that most of what was on offer wasn't really needed by any parent, and that much of what was touted would end up in landfill within a few years. **It saddened me – the idea that more 'stuff' makes you a better parent is a myth, and not a kind one.**

So, when a couple of my staff mentioned the idea of a baby bank, I knew it made sense. It was the perfect antidote to my malaise with the nursery industry, and I ended up co-founding ours.

Eleven years on, knowing we've repurposed thousands of items and helped avoid real carbon emissions because less stuff needs to be made new, and of course helped thousands of families get the essential kit and clothes they need for their families to thrive, still fills me with joy.

As a founding member of the Baby Bank Alliance, we're proud to be part of a growing movement showing there's another way – one where the brands that survive are the ones thinking about the planet, and the children who'll inherit it.

Eva Fernandes, Trustee, Co-founder of Baby Bank Network



Reuse news from Baby Bank Alliance

"Baby banks in the UK avoided an estimated ~28ktCO₂e in 2025 through item reuse, equivalent to annual emissions from 4,500 homes... 80% of baby banks encourage families to return items, suggesting the actual emissions avoided may be higher."



Our story in numbers



Approximately 70% of our families have more than one child so we estimate that we have supported 2,426 children in the past year, and more than 21,000 children overall.

How our service works

Online shopping with a difference

After registering on our website, our referral partners can view photos of the items we offer such as clothes, nappies, toys, essential equipment and toiletries. Sometimes they have a look at our website with the family. This is particularly helpful if a family doesn't speak English as they can easily communicate what they need.

Just like any shop website, the referral partner can add items to the cart. Unlike a traditional online store, there is no cost to them or the family.

When we receive the order, our team preps the bundle, ensuring all items are in great condition.

A few days later our team sends an email to our referral partner notifying them of delivery or asking them to collect their order. Our service covers all Bristol postcodes, into North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and is entirely free.

Our referral partner then has the happy task of delivering the items to the family they are supporting. This helps them to build their relationship with the family while sharing their expertise.



Toiletries for an expectant/postnatal mother
£0.00

Add to cart



Toiletries for the baby
£0.00

Select options



Toys and Books (up to age 5y)
£0.00

Add to cart



Travel cot
£0.00

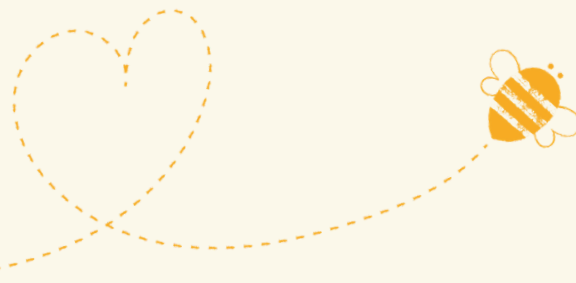
Add to cart

Stories from our community

"I work as a support worker for South & East Bristol Foodbank and have been able to help numerous clients out with baby clothes, children's clothes and items such as nappies, cots, prams and much more. It is amazingly helpful to be able to order what is needed and pick it up from the lovely volunteers at Baby Bank. It is wonderful to see gratitude and relief on the faces of our clients when we can pass on what they need for their babies and children."

Referral partner, South & East Bristol Food Bank

Our families



Many of the families we support are experiencing poverty and are unable to provide the basics they need for their family. A significant number have found themselves in unexpected crisis situations, where they have had to flee their homes.

The families we work with include asylum seekers and refugees as well as those experiencing homelessness or mental health challenges. Some women we support have experienced exploitation, domestic or sexual abuse, trafficking or modern-day slavery. They've had to leave impossible situations and find themselves with nothing. That's often when they are referred to Baby Bank.

The nature of our service means that we don't have the opportunity to meet the

families we support so it can be a challenge to share their stories in their own words. We are therefore very grateful when a referral partner passes on feedback from one of our families – it's wonderful to hear about how Baby Bank bundles positively impact their lives.

"I just wanted to feed back how appreciative the mum was, she was emotional and happy and was so excited as it meant so much to her. This will mean she can now take her son to nursery and leave her flat, both her babies will be able to sleep safely, her child with additional needs will have toys to play with and it will take the pressure off mum financially. Your support is invaluable. I wish you could have seen mum's face light up with joy."

Referral partner, local children's centre



Numbers from this year

40%	of families are on low income/no income
24%	are refugees or asylum seekers, or have no recourse to public funds
10%	are homeless or at risk of homelessness
6%	are young mums under 21 years
10%	are living with mental health issues
6%	are at risk of or are experiencing domestic or sexual abuse
3%	are care leavers
2%	have learning or physical disabilities



Our families

Case study

Rebuilding community – one bundle at a time

– from a charity referral partner

“I worked with one client who had to flee an unsafe situation. New to the UK, she found herself in Bristol with no family or community.

She came to us and that’s when she found out she was pregnant. When I met her, she was reserved and quiet. She claimed asylum but the food quality at the hotel was poor, and she was only given £8 per week to live on. She struggled with her health throughout her pregnancy due to lack of food.

Despite all that, she became so strong during her pregnancy – all she cared about was the baby.

Being an asylum seeker, she didn't receive full maternity pay, so the fact that Baby Bank was able to get her clothes and toys really was a gift to her. She was just so happy to see them because she was worried she couldn't give her child everything she needed. She wanted the best for her little girl.

The first thing we need as humans to recover from trauma is community. She did find community and Baby Bank was a part of that.

This service sends a message to isolated, traumatised women like her that there is a community, there are people thinking about you and your baby – working, sorting, delivering clothes to you.

Her biggest worry was, ‘What can I give my child while I’m in this situation?’ The fact that so many charities came together made a massive difference because Baby Bank provided things that she couldn’t have given her daughter on her own.

And this is part of a bigger picture – it’s not just clothes for a mum in a vulnerable situation – the team at Baby Bank likes to make the women they support feel loved at such a vulnerable time in their life. It’s so fundamental.”

(Small details have been changed to safeguard the identity of some of our case studies.)



Our families New service



Hospital kit for new mums: our emergency newborn bundles

After learning there are families in maternity units who would benefit from our support, we collaborated with North Bristol NHS Trust Maternity Services at Southmead Hospital to develop special newborn hospital bundles.

In February 2026, we launched these bundles for women who had just given birth and were unable to provide everything their newborn needed in their first few days. By the end of March, nine families had received an emergency bundle complete with nappies, muslins, sleepsuits, blanket and toiletries. The bundles are presented as gifts and include a card signposting families to further support.

*"Our community teams support women and families throughout their pregnancy and are often able to identify and support those in need before their baby is born. Sometimes however, we welcome women into the hospital for their baby's birth and realise that in fact **this is a family who really need urgent support**. It is fantastic to be able to offer immediate relief for families, building trust and hope at a time when they need it most."*

The emergency grab bags are wonderful: they provide dignity for women who come to hospital without any supplies. Having the moses baskets available has meant women and babies can get home as soon as possible with a safe place to sleep, which is best for the family."

Sharon Cohen, Complex Care Midwife,
North Bristol NHS Trust



Our referral partners



Building trust in our community

We work with a committed community of over 300 referral partners from around 100 organisations to support families who don't have the essentials they need. Our referral partner network includes midwives, health visitors, family hub staff, hospitals and schools. They share our strong desire to support the families they work with and by collaborating with us, referral partners can provide much of what families need. This makes a significant difference to their job satisfaction and sense of purpose.

"There are a lot of things you can't fix, but it's so nice to see how the parents feel when you come over with these big bags and their faces light up, because they can see you and others have made an effort."

It's so simple and quick to make a referral. It helps us build relationships and trust with the family and it makes our work a little bit easier and nicer."

Referral partner

Developing our partnerships

To support our referral partners and reach more families, we introduced a delivery service, offered in addition to our established collection service. One third of our bundles are now delivered direct to our referral partners by Seonaid in our van.

*"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for all the Baby Bank orders I have received. **Every order is delivered so promptly and with such kindness and you all do such an amazing job.**"*

Referral partner

Our referral partners have told us how 'extraordinary and 'indispensable' our service is. We would say the same about them – we couldn't do this work without them.

*"The family were very grateful for the items received and loved the box of toys. **Thank you very much and for your delivery service too.'**"*

Referral partner

Story from our referral partner community

"I regularly utilise Baby Bank in Fishponds to support newly arrived refugee families. The staff are incredibly helpful and go above and beyond to provide essential items, often at very short notice. Whenever I have visited the facility, I am warmly welcomed by the staff and volunteers. The orders are clearly labelled, and it is evident that the items have been checked thoroughly and packed with care. The service provided by the staff and volunteers at Baby Bank is indispensable." Referral partner

Our volunteers

We're grateful to have a dedicated team of warehouse volunteers who have collectively put in well over 2000 hours this year. Some have been giving up their time to support us for over ten years. We also have four volunteers who collect donations from our toiletry points. They completed 60 collections for us.

Yet, our volunteers are so much more than numbers.

**20 warehouse volunteers
did 724 shifts,
totalling 2172 hours**

They are the heart of Baby Bank

"Our volunteers are at the very heart of what we do, and this year they have shown amazing adaptability and resilience. As we have expanded, both with the expansion of our storage hub and launch of our delivery service, they have embraced new opportunities, adapted their working practices and rolled up their sleeves to help families in need with the same enthusiasm as ever.

We could not have done it without them. When we were deciding whether to move to a larger warehouse or simply expand our current site in Fishponds, it was the thought of our wonderful community that helped us make the decision. Over the years we've built strong relationships with

our volunteers, many of whom live locally and give their time week after week.

Moving away could have meant losing some of these valued volunteers, and so it was important for us to remain accessible and continue growing in the place where we've put down roots.

Every donation sorted, every order packed and every family helped is only possible because of the generosity and dedication of our volunteers. Not only do they help with all areas of the charity, they also bring a lovely atmosphere and energy to our warehouse. We are very grateful for all they do and for their hard work, determination and support."

Stephanie Mason-Kyle, Office Manager

Story from a staff member-turned volunteer

"When I worked for Baby Bank I was inspired by the volunteers – not only giving up their spare time for free but how incredible they are to work with, it's such a joy!"

Sarah, former office manager and current regular volunteer

Our volunteers

We are a community

"I started as a volunteer then became a trustee. I am so proud of the work Baby Bank does to help those in need. **We are a community and we support each other.**"

Volunteer

"I really enjoy volunteering at Baby Bank, we all get on so well and have a laugh and a chat, whilst doing something I think is so worthwhile. **It's really great when the referral partners give such positive feedback to Baby Bank.**"

Volunteer

"I started volunteering with Baby Bank during a transient time in my life, it gave me a sense of purpose and belonging while I got things back on track...Fridays at the warehouse were the highlight of my week, **catching up with fellow volunteers while knowing we were making a difference was so rewarding.**"

Meg

"I've met such lovely people, it has been great to make friends with people from different backgrounds and age groups."

Louise



Our volunteers' hopes for the future

"My hope is that Baby Bank Network continues to be a **beacon of hope and support for families, creating a compassionate community where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive**...Volunteering has opened my eyes to the resilience and strength of our community, and it has shown me the profound impact that kindness and generosity can have." Morena

"I would love to see the need for the service disappear, but in the absence of that I hope it can **continue its amazing work.**" Nicola

"I hope it can continue to evolve to reflect the needs of the community and the families we support in the most useful way possible. To continue to **provide this service to a high standard.**" Katy

Our item donors

How our community donates items

We receive donations of essential items from businesses and local families. Some of these families have previously received our support and choose to donate items back to us once they no longer need them for their children.

We have a [wish list](#) of items on our website, and we ask that donors check this before they donate so we can manage stock in our storage hub, where space is limited. We aim to make it as easy as possible for our community to donate, while ensuring what we receive is what our families really need.

1592
donation
drop-offs were
booked at our
warehouse



**That's
32**
per week on
average

There are two ways to donate:

- [Visit a toiletry donation point](#)
- [Book a drop off](#) at our warehouse

We're delighted to welcome three new toiletry donation point partners this year:

- BS3 Community Cafe, The Southville Centre
- Play Patch (formerly Boing!), Lockleaze
- Village, Bedminster

To learn more about our donation guidelines this article may be helpful: [The donations we can \(and can't\) accept at Baby Bank.](#)

Why local families donate to Baby Bank

"I donated a cot, some changing equipment, toys and baby sleeping bags, and delivered to the warehouse in Fishponds. Both my children used the cot when they were newborns. My memories are of many sleepless nights! But it's nice to know your baby is safe and comfy, even if they're not sleeping.

Rather than donate to a charity shop, I thought it would be nice to give it directly to families who need support at a very vulnerable time in their lives. I like the idea that they will feel less alone when they're gifted something that's useful and good quality. It made me feel better about getting rid of stuff. It was a win-win because it made space in our house, and I knew it was going to a good home.

Baby stuff is often very expensive and used for such a short time, I really like knowing it will be used and reused while it's still in great condition, and that lots of families will benefit from it." Rose, local parent of two

Our fundraisers and donors



"We are so grateful to the generous supporters who make regular or one-off donations and to everyone who supports our campaigns. Regular gifts are incredibly important and mean a steady source of income we can rely on throughout the year."

Our campaigns have grown over the last few years, and are now a key part of our fundraising. More than 60 people kindly donated to our Power The Hive campaign in June 2025. Part of The Big Give's first Small Charity Week campaign, donations were match funded, so every pound donated during the week was doubled, raising a total of £9,415 (including Gift Aid and before fees).

These funds enabled us to expand into the upstairs of our current premises in January 2026, increasing our space to store donations and develop new projects, as well as providing a better environment for staff, volunteers and visitors. Crucially, your support over the last year helped our team to rise to the demands on our service, and help families across Bristol experiencing poverty or crisis."

Sian Lamprey, Fundraising and Partnerships Manager

This year our campaigns raised:

Great Bristol Run 2025

Huge thanks to the team who together raised **over £3000!**

Power the Hive: £9415

(including Gift Aid). Thanks to our match funder Global's Make Some Noise

Santa's Sack Christmas Campaign: over £30,000!

- Donations via the Big Give Christmas Challenge (including match funding and gift aid): £21,505
- Unmatched donations: £3,860
- Estimated gifts in kind: over £5,000

Our most successful campaign to date!

With special thanks to our Champion funder Julia Rausing Trust and our pledger, Mrs Iris Noreen Setchell Charitable Trust.



Our fundraisers and donors

Our corporate supporters

We are fortunate to have a wonderful community of corporate partners who support our work in several ways. From bake sales and toiletry donations, to organising fundraising events and providing pro-bono support, our corporate partners go above and beyond to raise funds and help boost our profile.

We were thrilled to be chosen as charity of the year 2025 by the team at Hughes Price Walker (HPW) who collaborated to raise funds and awareness of our work. Their fundraising included quizzes, cake sales and bring and buy sales. Two of their team even took on a 10k in the Great Bristol Run. HPW also very generously matched donations up to £1,300, raising over £3,300 in total throughout the year.

"At HPW we want to support small local charities through fundraising and raising awareness. We have a charity of the year each year for whom we raise money through bring and buy sales, cake sales, and the occasional 10k run!"

We chose Baby Bank Network to be our 2025 charity of the year because we wanted to help them make a difference to families in Bristol. It's been lovely getting to know the staff and volunteers and seeing how hard they work to make sure families have what they need."

Helen Chivers, Actuarial Team Leader, HPW



Zumbathon fundraiser

Zumba instructor Celina ran a 2-hour Zumbathon raising a grand total of £2084.51 for Baby Bank Network.

Thanks to Celina and everyone who danced and donated to support our work!

We are very grateful to every one of our fundraisers, donors and corporate supporters – we couldn't do it without you!

Our full list of thanks, which includes our corporate partners and fundraising supporters, can be found on pages 32-33.

Our partners

Baby Bank Network is built on collaboration. Our community or 'network' of staff, volunteers, trustees, families, corporate donors, charity collaborators and referral partners is the lifeblood of what we do. All our goals have been achieved by working together.

Baby Bank Alliance

Our co-founders Becky and Eva have been building a national Baby Bank Alliance in collaboration with Little Village in London, Save the Children and Purposeful Ventures. The aim is to increase the profile and impact of the vital work undertaken by over 350 baby banks run in local communities across the UK. The alliance is already helping baby banks to share knowledge and resources, attract funding, in kind donations and corporate partners that they couldn't secure alone, and grow the overall baby bank movement. More details can be found at www.babybankalliance.org.

Our collaborative approach to reuse

The process we've developed for taking donations aims to ensure we only receive items we can use in our core service. This means our team can spend their time sorting items we can pass onto families, rather than on processing items that we can't.

Whenever we can, we collaborate with other local organisations to find good homes for excess stock. If it's got life left and can benefit families in some way, we'll pass it on. In turn, our collaborators help us stock up on items we need more of.

We've also given a large selection of toys and books to the Citizen Service Point so children can play with them while their families engage with the advisors.

Charity partnerships

Last year we ran a six-month pilot with the charity Voluntary Action North Somerset, to trial delivering items ordered by health visitors directly to the families' homes. After the success of our pilot, we extended the project to welcome more health visitors from other centres. We have helped 543 families this way, and we hope to attract additional funds to roll this scheme out further to include all health visitors and other referral partners.



New toy room in our expanded storage hub.

Our staff team



It has been an exciting year for our team as we have grown from four to seven part-time members of staff. In July 2025 Evelina joined as admin assistant to free up the capacity of our existing staff. She has revamped our wish list and referrals pages by standardising our product images, which has strengthened our brand. Evelina's work helping the team with fundraising and operational projects means we can support more families.

We employed Seonaid as our first delivery driver to help drop orders directly to our over-stretched referral partners. **Seonaid made 389 deliveries in her first nine months and is now dropping off nearly all the orders where delivery is requested.**

In November we employed Rachel to take over as comms coordinator from Sian, who moved into the role of fundraising & partnerships manager. With Sian now able to focus solely on our public-facing fundraising and partnerships, she has already made strong progress by increasing funds raised, growing our network of partners, attracting funding and donations, and developing new initiatives such as corporate volunteering.

As a dedicated comms coordinator, Rachel has developed communications that keep our community better informed about what we do, what support we need and the impact we have.

"Rachel has been responsible for a big step-up in our comms. She can spend time developing more targeted content, including a recent 'day in the life' story for our service manager job advert. This resulted in us receiving more suitable applicants for the role, saving us all time and enabling us to focus on supporting more families."

Becky, Baby Bank Co-founder and CEO.



Images: (left) the team in the expanded storage hub, (right) the team with actor and Baby Bank Network advocate Gamba Cole

Stories from our staff team

"Having the extra space has meant we now have a dedicated donations room, allowing items to be put away when we have time rather than having to reactively clear space near the front door. It's also meant we have more room to store bundled items which makes packing orders more efficient. It has been lovely to offer the volunteers a space to sit down to have a tea break." Katy Haydn-Smith, Baby Bank Service Manager

Our trustee team



This year we welcomed two new trustees, Federica Foti, referral partner trustee and Gemma Rudrum, treasurer. They each bring with them a wealth of expertise and passion – we are delighted that they are officially part of our trustee team.

Referral partner case study

Federica joined our Baby Bank community in 2019 when she began referring families to our service. Last year, we started looking for a new trustee with strong experience as a referral partner. Federica's background of family support work, working with women escaping modern day slavery and her current role advising and training schools in family hubs, means she has hands-on knowledge of safeguarding and supporting families in crisis. **With this insight, she understands instinctively what may be helpful for our families.**

"I've been working with Baby Bank as a referral partner in various roles for seven years. I love working collaboratively and the charities in Bristol are a great community working together, all wanting to make a difference. Baby Bank is one of my favourites.

There has been an erosion of community – some people who grow up with little or no community around them experience barriers to building one. For many families, community is missing and charities are trying to rebuild that – that's part of what Baby Bank does.

When you work with a family there aren't many opportunities to give them things because there's no funding there. Working with Baby Bank, being able to provide lovely items that a family needs just makes a massive difference to them. **They see that there is someone to help them.**

When I've supported women who've experienced modern day slavery, it's striking when you hear their stories. You hear accounts of exploitation, violence and torture, the worst things human beings can do to one another. **The flip side is how generous and kind some people are. You see such resilience – it really gives you a different perspective on life.**

We are trying to improve outcomes for families experiencing poverty. It is something that we see across the spectrum and families are dealing with every day. It significantly reduces their opportunities; what they can do with kids, the choices they have, their health.

Referring families to Baby Bank is something that can easily provide a bit of relief when it comes to those challenges.

The ethos of Baby Bank is about reusing and recycling, as well as giving clothes to families who don't have what they need for their young children. It's thinking about what's sustainable and creating that infrastructure to make sure things don't go to waste."

Our trustee team



We would like to thank all our trustees for their support, guidance and commitment. The strategic leadership they have provided this year has been invaluable, enabling us to grow our team, expand our space and develop our service to support more local families.



"It has been a great honour to join Baby Bank Network as a trustee, bringing my skills as an accountant and experience as a finance director. Cost-of-living rises have impacted not only the families we support, but our operations themselves. Despite this challenging environment Baby Bank Network has grown and expanded to meet the increasing need."

Whilst our costs have risen, so have our operations; we have expanded into a larger space, taken on more staff, are providing better facilities for our volunteers and we have been able to support 1427 families in the past year."

Gemma Rudrum, treasurer



The value we give



“Baby bank is a vital resource for low-income families and we would be lost without it as health visitors.”

Referral partner

Equity for our families

Every family referred to us is experiencing crisis or poverty, yet each family needs different support. Some need a safe place for their newborn to sleep, or warm clothes for their children so they can safely take them out during winter. Others, perhaps in emergency situations, might not have access to any of the essentials their children urgently need.

Some families need a helping hand while they get back on their feet, while others need longer-term support.

On average we provide £112 worth of items to each family we work with. For that £112 investment, our families receive items that, if bought new, would cost them around £355.

Families who need a full kit receive items that would typically cost them £1700 if bought new.

These costs are not viable for the families we work with. **That is why we exist, to provide them with the essential items for their children to be safe and to thrive.**

On average, our £112 investment could provide a family with the essentials to keep their child safe, warm, well and thriving. This might include:

Safe

For babies: a Moses basket or crib, and for a toddler or older child – a cot and stair gate

Warm

Plenty of clothes, a mix of basics and outfits, selected for the season

Well

Toiletry kits for mum and their child. A feeding pillow, changing kit and baby bath for little ones, or weaning items and a highchair for older children. We can help provide kit for however they choose to feed their baby

Thriving

Depending on their age they might receive toys, books or a playmat, plus a pram or sling to help the family get out and about to do the shopping, visit community groups and attend appointments

How you can join our community

"I always say I get way more out of volunteering than I put in. Baby Bank is a family in itself, doing what it can to support others in what is already a challenging period of their lives."

Suzy, volunteer since 2017

Become a fundraiser or donor

- Become a regular donor to help fund our vital service year-round
- Support our Christmas appeal or join our Great Bristol Run team
- Organise a fundraiser or collection in your school, workplace or community - it could be a bake sale, sponsored activities or second-hand sale

Become a gifts in kind donor

- Donate pre-loved items from your family, or become a community collaborator by joining forces with your neighbours to donate items from [our current wishlist](#)
- Donate toiletries for mums and babies – book on our website to deliver to our storage hub, donate at [our toiletry points around Bristol](#) or organise a toiletries drive at work, school or in your community

Become a referral partner

If you support families with young children, you may be able to join us as a referral partner. We'd love to hear from you!

Become a corporate or community partner

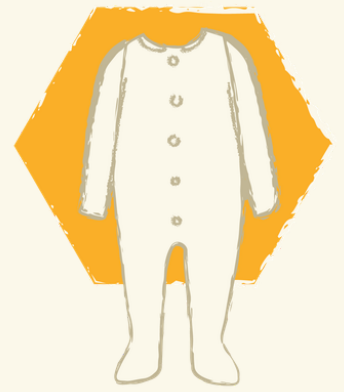
- Can Baby Bank Network be your charity of the year?
- Can your team fundraise, donate gifts in kind or support our campaigns?
- Can your employer offer match funding for funds you raise or for volunteering your time? Or do they administer grants or trusts we can apply for?
- Does your employer run a Payroll Giving or Pay As You Earn scheme?
- Can your team volunteer for the day at our hub?
- Can you host a toiletry donation point in your workplace, school or community venue?
- Can you think of another way to collaborate? Get in touch!

Become a volunteer

- Join the team in our storage hub or help with collections from our toiletry donations points
- Spread the word: tell everyone with a baby about us! Share our shout-outs in your groups or put up a poster for us

We offer talks about our work to our partners, and we can share the story of their support in our comms!

Our goals past and present



How did we do?

In last year's report we shared our goal to help more families with the right items at the right time. To do this we planned to take the following steps:

- Expand our capacity
- Extend our reach
- Our own wheels
- Expand our offer

We are proud to say that we achieved all four steps this year.

1. Three new staff joined our team which has helped us to increase our capacity
2. We now offer an in-house delivery service in our new van
3. We have expanded our hub space, meaning we have more storage capacity, office space and communal areas
4. We introduced emergency hospital bundles for families with newborns

As a result, we've strengthened our partnerships, increased our efficiency and become even more accessible to local families experiencing poverty or crisis.



Looking ahead

We know there is more work to be done. Guided by our two key goals to continue to extend our reach and expand our capacity, we've developed a strategy and roadmap. We want to support as many families as possible, but we cannot grow indefinitely. With this in mind, we continue to consider how we can maximise what we do with what we have.

Our goals for 2026/2027 are to:

Expand our capacity through our core service

- Increase the number of referrals we can manage per week
- Review and expand our existing projects including expanding the age range of books that we offer into Key Stage 1

- Establish new projects such as working with midwives based in mother and baby units at other locations
- Strengthen our corporate partnerships
- Bring in extra staff resource to help our operations team keep up with demand

Extend our reach across the city and with more organisations

- Increase the number of referral partners and referring organisations
- Review, develop and expand our partnerships for example, our exciting collaboration with Voluntary Action North Somerset and Sirona care and health
- Develop new projects and collaborations including establishing new donation points

Sustainability



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations (UN) members in 2015, created 17 world Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs highlight the connections between environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development. Through our service we are working towards 7 SDGs.



With child poverty in the UK reaching unprecedented levels, baby banks help families struggling to feed, clothe and take care of their children through direct action. Being given free kit and clothes – that can be worth hundreds, even thousands of pounds if they include items such as a cot, pushchair and high chair – means families have money to spend on food and bills.



Families experiencing poverty must make difficult choices on where to spend their limited budgets. Many of the families we support live in areas of high deprivation and ‘food deserts’ where there are no fresh food shops within walking distance, but there are takeaways and corner shops with high-calorie ultra-processed foods. By supporting families with kit and clothes they have more money for healthy food.



‘Poverty affects a child's health even before they are born. Children born to parents living in poverty are more likely to have a low birth weight and less likely to survive the first year of life. They are also more likely to suffer from asthma and other childhood diseases and to experience poor health later in life. Children in poverty are more likely to have poor mental health and are at higher risk of psychological distress.’*



Living in poverty means children are not able to reach their educational potential. ‘Household income is the strongest predictor of how well a child will do in school. Children growing up in poverty on average, do less well in education. Even before children start school, they fall behind their peers, and these gaps persist and widen as school continues.’* Buying books is not a priority for families struggling to pay for food and basics, so we provide book bundles.



Children living in poverty may be unable to reach their potential. ‘Poverty can mean children going without basic necessities – going to school or to bed hungry, wearing shoes that are too small or let the rain in, or sleeping on a mattress on the floor because there is no money for a bedframe. Poverty can also mean missing out on everyday fun, play and relaxed time with family because family outings are too expensive. It can mean being excluded from social activities with friends because there isn’t money for a cinema ticket or a birthday present.’*



Baby Bank Network is a charity run for public benefit not profit. We reuse kit and clothes that may otherwise end up in landfill or energy recovery, meaning fewer new items need to be purchased. This contributes to both the degrowth of manufacturing, and the growth of meaningful work or voluntary opportunities for people in our community.



Through reusing baby and children's items, baby banks reduce carbon as there is less need to manufacture new items and fewer items are sent to landfill or energy recovery.

*Quote source: Child Poverty Action Group

Finances

APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

INCOME

£254,928

EXPENDITURE

£159,773

Staff & Volunteers	£108,448
Toiletries	£9,320
Mattresses	£4,379
Spare parts	£572
Delivery	£3,314
Warehouse/utilities	£28,242
Other	£3,216

RESERVES*

Unrestricted	£79,917
Restricted	£134,086

Target reserves £52,268-£106,536
(FY26/27: 3-6 months running costs, unrestricted funds)

*TBC subject to accountant's report



Funding summary

£16,732

Donations
(one-off &
regular)

£38,358

Events & sales

£4,224

Corporates

£195,615

Grants

Thank you for your support



We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to every single person and organisation who has...

- ...ever made a **one-off financial donation** or supported any of our campaigns
- set up a **regular monthly donation** to ensure we can keep our service running
- **donated gifts in kind** – either preloved or new
- donated via one of our **online gift lists**, such as For Common Good or Amazon
- shared, liked or commented on our **social media posts** to share our message
- **organised or taken part in an event** to fundraise for us
- hosted a **toiletry donation point** for us, either temporarily or permanently...



And a huge thank you...



...to all our friends, funders and corporate or community partners who have donated funds, gifts in kind or pro bono help, including:

Advantage Financial Solutions
Albert Hunt Trust
Arnold Clark Community Fund
AS Cullum CT
Asda, Bedminster
Ashgrove and Clyde House Nurseries
Baby Bank Alliance
Barratt Foundation
Be Weird, Be Wild, Be Wonderful
Bluefield Foundation
Boing! Lawrence Weston and Inns Court
Boston Tea Party: Gloucester Road and
Cheswick Village
Brandwells Construction
Bright Sprout
Bristol Airport
Bristol Airport Diamond Fund
Bristol Grammar School
Brunel Fields Primary School
BS3 Community Cafe, The Southville Centre
Burgess Salmon
Child Health Information Service
Children's Book Project
Christ The King Church
Clarion Futures
Clifton Nursery
Clover Maintenance
Comic Relief
Denman CT
Downend Round Table
Dunelm Delivering Joy

Elborough Care Services
Filton Children's Centre
Freemasons of Bristol (Park Street)
Fuss @804
Gamba Cole
Garfield Weston Foundation
Ghyston
Global's Make Some Noise
Hell's Ink
Hollye Kirkcaldy
Homestart
Hughes Price Walker
Ikea
Index Medical Ltd (Dr. Fox)
J&M Britton Charitable Trust
John Lewis Community Scheme
Julia Rausing Trust
Kids Stuff
Kitale Community First Fund
Laserware Ltd
Leathersellers Company
Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust
Lily Arkwright
Little Mess Central Bristol
Liubov Edwards
Ludlow Trust
Magdalen Hospital Trust
Masonic Charitable Foundation
Meeting Place
Mercure and Holland House Hotels
Morrisons Foundation

And there's more...



Morrisons, Fishponds and Cribbs Causeway
Mrs Iris Noreen Setchell Charitable Trust
Nagle Family Foundation
NCVO
Nvidia
Obex Protection Ltd
One Brunswick Square
Our 2025 Great Bristol Run Team
Party in the Ponds
Philips Electronics UK Limited
Places for People
Play Patch, Lockleaze (previously Boing!)
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
Quartet Community Foundation
RSK & Structural Soils
Scramblers
Seventh Day Adventist Church W-S-M
St Austell's Brewery CT
St Michael's Centre
Tesco

The Big Give
The Clara E Burgess Charity
The Co-op Supermarkets (Clifton Village, Gloucester Road, and Henleaze)
The Hogben Family Charitable Trust
The Tynings Primary School
TK Maxx/Homesense
University of Bristol
V&D Interiors Ltd
Vanny Campers
Village Bristol
Voluntary Action North Somerset
VWV Law
Wessex Water Foundation
Wick Pre-School
Wild Oats Natural Foods
Yate Children's Centre
Yatton Junior Football Club
Zumbathon with Celena Lewis



Thank you for all your support over the past year!

For more information, to contact us or to donate funds or items, please visit:



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www.BabyBankNetwork.com



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