

**Press release for immediate release: 29/4/26.**

### **New Citizens Advice Hubs in Wetherby and Tadcaster**

Citizens Advice is strengthening its local presence in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, and Wetherby, West Yorkshire, by partnering with the Wetherby and District Foodbank's Community Café and Advice Hubs, delivering free, confidential, face-to-face guidance in accessible, community-based settings.

North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre, said, "We're delighted to be opening new Citizens Advice hubs in Wetherby and Tadcaster, providing free, face-to-face support directly to the community. Accessible services like these are vital in providing local support that may not have always been readily available. By offering early advice in familiar, welcoming settings, we can support people to resolve issues sooner and improve their overall wellbeing."

Through this initiative, residents can access practical advice on issues such as benefits, budgeting, debt, housing, and managing ongoing cost-of-living pressures, all within welcoming and familiar environments. By embedding advice services within existing community spaces, the partnership aims to support people earlier, helping them address challenges before they reach crisis point.

The community cafés already provide a valuable space for people to connect, access light refreshments, and seek informal support. The introduction of Citizens Advice builds on this foundation, ensuring individuals and families can access trusted, professional guidance at an early stage across a wide range of issues, helping them to make informed decisions and improve their financial resilience.

Rebecca Lythe, Chair of Trustees at Wetherby and District Foodbank, said: "At a time of rising household costs, this partnership is an important step in ensuring people can access professional support, at the right time, in a place where they already feel comfortable and supported, in the heart of their community. It allows us to offer a more joined-up approach, helping people, not only with immediate concerns, but also to socialise, build confidence and find longer-term solutions. By offering this service locally we're improving accessibility, helping people address challenges early, avoid escalating difficulties, and feel more in control of their situation."

In Tadcaster, sessions take place every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12 noon at The Barn (term time) and the Methodist Church (NY school holidays).

In Wetherby, the Community Café & Advice Hub runs every Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon at St James' Church Room, Church Street.

Laura Chalmers, Area Manager for Yorkshire and Humberside - Trussell Trust, commented, "This integrated approach helps address the underlying causes of financial hardship, supporting people to move towards greater stability, resilience and independence, ultimately reducing the food bank need."

By combining community connection with early access to expert advice, the cafés in

Tadcaster and Wetherby are helping to create a stronger local support network; one that focuses on prevention, resilience, and empowering people to navigate challenges before they become overwhelming.

---

**Contact:**

**Hayley Dodsworth, Project Coordinator**

**Wetherby and District Foodbank**

**Email: [office@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:office@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk)**

---

Background to Wetherby and District Foodbank, part of the Trussell Group of Foodbanks.

**Background to our Foodbank and the new Community Cafe and Advice Hubs:**

Wetherby and District Foodbank was founded in 2014 as a means of helping people who were in temporary crisis by providing an emergency box of food to last for around three days. Over the years it became increasingly apparent that this approach provided only temporary relief, a sticking plaster for far deeper and more complex problems, such as: Out of control debt, low wages, redundancy, delays in accessing benefits. *The idea for the Community Cafes was initiated by the Foodbank to go a little deeper into the many reasons why someone might be experiencing financial instability.* If people can be helped to stabilise their financial situation before they need emergency food, then they might never need to use a foodbank at all.

The community cafés already provided a valuable space for people to connect, access light refreshments, and seek informal support. The introduction of Citizens Advice builds on this foundation, ensuring individuals and families can access trusted, professional guidance at an early stage across a wide range of issues, helping them to make informed decisions and improve their financial resilience.

**Wetherby and District Foodbank**

Should you require the foodbank you can call on **07840 455725** for support.

<https://wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>

**Rebecca Lythe**

Rebecca became chair of the Board of Trustees in August 2024. Rebecca is Managing Director of Newmedica, a leading NHS provider of Ophthalmology Services in England. Prior to that she held senior leadership roles at Asda (Strategy and Business change Director and Chief Compliance Officer). She lives in Thorp Arch and is looking forward to supporting the Foodbank's next chapter for the local community.

## **Citizens Advice**

You can contact North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre's free Adviceline on 0808 278 7900 for support.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

