

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0340F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

R1 - Alastair Sutherland born 1944

R2 - Linda Sutherland born 1953

Interviewed September 2016

Members of King's Food Bank. Helped set up the Flood Relief Centre

0340f Summary Sheet

Track 1, pp. 1-2

Members of Kings Church, Kendal. In 2012 a food bank set up 'King's Food Bank'. They have been involved ever since. Reasons why people use the food bank. Number of referrals per month. Details of other organisations and churches that support the food bank. Many volunteers involved. Who they help and why. Help provided for people in Kendal and surrounding villages. Raising money. Grant from Cumbria County Council for homeless people moving into a home.

Track 2, pp. 2-3

Food bank opening hours and how these have changed over time. They do not accept direct requests for help – only through agencies. They have a good relationship with agencies in the town. Food deliveries – how they are made.

Track 3, pp. 3-4

Packing food boxes, dating food, stock rotation. Mostly non-perishable food. Have good relationship with neighbouring food banks. Food bank Manager. This is an independent food bank – not part of a larger charity. Volunteers take out the food to households. Moved to the Shakespeare Centre in 2015.

Track 4, p. 4

Few requests from older people

Track 5, pp. 4-6

In December 2015 they were asked to run the Flood Relief Centre (FRC). At this stage the food/ goods in the Town Hall. Was then moved to shops in the Westmorland Shopping Centre. Had three units and took in all types of goods. Donations from various firms, supermarkets and individuals. Many volunteers. People in Kendal pulled together. Provided advice to those who had been flooded. Helped them complete forms. The King's Food Bank and FRC were run separately. Though there was movement of people between them. The food bank accessed only by referral. The FRC open to anyone who had been flooded. Later registration used at the FRC. The FRC still being used at the time of interview – though shorter opening hours. Talking to people was very important – friendships built up.

Track 6, pp. 6-8

In May 2016 a Manager of the FRC appointed. Opening hours – change over time. Change in people's needs over time. They expect to close the FRC in October. Anything left will go to the food bank. Postcards created for sale to raise funds for the FRC.

Appendix: King's Food Bank log of referrals for one month, August 2016.