

## Covid Developments and Updates!

Since March 2020, we have distributed **2,573 food parcels**, providing **119,007 meals** to support **5,669 people** most affected by COVID-19 and to support our existing service users who are affected by poverty.

After lockdown, we went to 100% delivery of all food parcels which was maintained until towards the end of July. Since August, collections by clients have increased to approximately 50% of requests with the remainder delivered or collected by referrers. When more restrictions were introduced in November, deliveries increased again.

Contact has been maintained with referrers ensuring that continued support is available for clients in resolving issues, although we have also been accepting self-referrals (approximately 10% - 15%) during this time. We still request the reasons for referrals although have not analysed these in details since March. These statistics predominately reflect families struggling with poverty, insufficient benefits, fuel poverty, feeding children who were constantly at home, timing delays with benefits, and new claims delays. Hopefully 2021 will see a reduction in people requiring support with the recent news from the Government about the upcoming vaccine becoming available in the UK from December 2020.



### Soup Pot Developments and News

Our Soup Pot has operated slightly different this year in line with Covid-19 regulations. We have moved to a take-away service only (Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12 – 1pm) to ensure that our service users have continued support during these difficult times. Project Coordinator, Rita McNeil said ***“When the summer passed with no soup pot, I was really worried about our clients who depend on us for a meal. We were pleased to reopen on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and we are looking forward to providing our annual Christmas gifts and special meal this year. Unfortunately, this will still be delivered via a takeaway service for now”***. Rita wanted to thank her volunteers for their dedication to the Soup Pot and said that ***“We are very fortunate for all the donations we receive and also for the funding from Clackmannanshire Council which allows us to deliver this project”***. Rita wished everyone a great Christmas and a peaceful new year!! We are hoping to open our Soup Pot service indoors again in the New Year depending on Covid regulations.



### Welcoming Jilly Guild!

We warmly welcomed a new full-time member of staff last month to our team. Jilly Guild is our new Chief Officer at The Gate and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to develop our Charity into its future.

Next year we mark our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are hoping that Jilly will bring fresh ideas to take our Charity into the next ten years of life!

If you would like to meet with Jilly to discuss your services, please email: [jilly@the-gate-charity.org](mailto:jilly@the-gate-charity.org) or give Jilly a call on **07584 867362**. Jilly would be delighted to hear from you!!

The Gate Charity would like to wish our volunteers, community partners, supporters, members and referrers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please wear a mask when entering The Gate Centre



THANK YOU!

# The Wee County Continues to Support The Gate!

We have been overwhelmed by the support that we are continuing to receive from our community. Since Covid affected our area, donations significantly reduced with the closure of schools, churches and small businesses but the community continued to support us during these difficult times. There are far too many people and organisations to mention but we wanted to express sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us recently including our volunteers, local small and large businesses, other charities, Clackmannanshire Council, faith groups, schools, supermarkets and the general public. We could not operate our projects without the valued support.

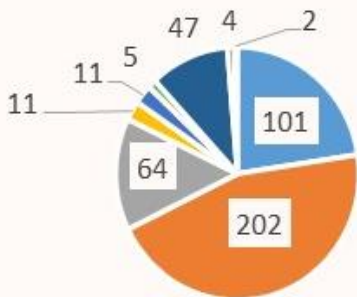
**Thank You!**

## Thanking just some of our supporters this year!



### Q3 Foodbank Stats (Jul, Aug and Sept 2020)

#### Deliveries



- Sauchie
- Alloa
- Tullibody
- Alva
- Tillicoultry
- Coalsnaughton
- Clackmannan
- Fishcross

Meals Distributed during Q3  
**52,668**

