

Barton Community Association_Community Larder Project

Family stories

Family A

Mum Dad and four teenage children managing reasonably well and then the bombshell news that they are expecting naturally conceived triplets hit the family for six. Babies were born almost full term and allowed home very quickly and then the chaos began. Just the sheer number of nappies each day was mind blowing and this is where we stepped in with emergency support. We delivered volumes of nappies each week as well as nappy sacks and disposable bibs. Poor Dad was running around trying to cope with the daily shopping list so again we stepped in and helped him by delivering essentials such as bread, milk, breakfast cereals, potatoes and the occasional supply of pizzas when he didn't have time to cook a meal for the children when they returned from school. They never went hungry, and the babies had a constant supply of fresh nappies.

Quote from dad "Without the support of Barton Community Association, who were always just a phone call away, I don't know how I would have coped in those early days. They took away a lot of the stress and most of the time we didn't even need to ask for their help – they just turned up on the doorstep with everything we needed. We as a family will be forever grateful"

Family B

Mum with three young sons under the age of six finds herself alone when her husband abandoned her and emptied out the bank account leaving her penniless. We immediately provided emergency groceries within the hour of receiving the referral and continued to do so until her Universal Credits cut in. Because of the support we had given her during the six-week period she immediately signed up to the Community Larder and continues her membership. During the summer we supported her with a coach trip to the seaside so the family could enjoy a day together experiencing a different environment. They had the time of their lives.

Quote from mum "Where would I be without you. You were there for me when I most needed support and help, and you have continued to support me ever since. Thank you"

Female A

Mother with three sons who's long term relationship with her partner came to an end. The partner had an increasing dependence on drugs and his wife had tried tirelessly to support him, but the situation became untenable so they parted. On 22nd December she was told that her dd for the larder hadn't gone through and her membership was, therefore, being cancelled. When she checked her bank account her ex husband had cleared out the account and left just 68p in the account, basically feeling that feeding his drug habit was more important than feeding his two children. Xmas was looking really gloomy for her and her two boys as she had the task of involving the police, closing down the account and setting up another bank account that he couldn't access.

We stepped straight in and provided some emergency supplies to get them through Xmas as well as a small gift for each of the boys. I am also working with the local advice centre on her behalf to see if we can secure some further help to get her through January when she should hopefully be back on her feet. This is a person who has never previously asked for any help and was referred to us by a family member as she was too embarrassed to ask herself. We are able to offer her some practical and worthwhile help at this time, and will continue to support her in the short term.