

# Coming together to support our local communities

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## During the cost of living crisis

As a Society, we're uniquely positioned and at the heart of our local communities to provide support to those who need it. That's why we want to use our nationwide high street and office locations to collect items which can help those struggling with the cost of living crisis. As part of our purpose and commitment to provide real help with real life, today we're launching a series of [cause collections](#) which will focus on helping different national charities each quarter.

## Our local Communities need us more than ever

Unfortunately, the cost of living crisis isn't going to go away overnight. We are all living with the biggest price hike many have seen for fifty years. But what does this mean in real terms? Well, everyday items have increased much faster than household incomes and whilst all of the UK are affected by the rising prices, it has had a substantial impact on low-income people and families.

- [14.5 million people living in poverty including 4.3 million children](#)
- [An emergency food parcel is given out every 13 seconds](#)

## How can we help?

As need for essentials increase, we want to help meet the need for demand. That's why between now and the end of March, we're encouraging colleagues to set up and / or donate to cause collections for either the food bank [Trussell Trust](#) or the hygiene poverty charity [Hygiene Bank](#). Both hygiene and food poverty are increasing with many unable to afford to stay clean or have enough money to afford a meal.

## Head office colleagues

For office-based or remote colleagues we have set up central cause collections which you can contribute to on your next visit to an office site, between Monday (9 January) and the end of March. You'll find the collection points listed below, along with where we'll be donating to:

Office Site	Cause	Office Contact
Yorkshire Drive (Outside Restaurant)	Bradford Metropolitan Foodbank	Devinder Jagdev
Broad Gate (East EDR)	Leeds North and West Foodbank	Jack Clarke

Broadoak (In Reception)	Peterborough Foodbank	Kimberley Galley Simon Harris Tim Gates
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However, this does not stop you from running your own Cause Collections that support the Cost of Living Crisis. We know that departments are already involved with other local charities and good causes, and we're more than happy for these to continue and for you to run your own cause collection that supports the cost of living crisis.

And if you're working remotely, why not make a donation via your local branch or agency? Or just remember to bring some items in next time you're at one of our office sites.

### **Colleagues in the Retail Network**

For colleagues in branches and agencies, you are welcome to choose which charity you want to support and can find your nearest location by searching [here](#) for Hygiene bank and [here](#) for Trussell Trust. If your local area is not covered by the Trussell Trust, it will most likely have a foodbank that operates locally, so feel free to search online for a local foodbank and make contact. They may even be able to provide a collection bin for your customers to donate items in to.

### **Setting up a cause collection**

**If you're setting up a cause collection in your branch, agency or office site department, here's what you'll need to do once you know who and what you're collecting for:**

1. Register your cause collection through this [link](#) and for agencies download the form from [here](#)
2. Order your Cause collection box from Paragon (if you don't have one)
3. Order a Cause Collection static poster from Paragon
4. Keep a track of the items that you have collected as these will need to be recorded at the end of the collection to track the approximate value
5. Complete the Cause Collection Value spreadsheet/form through this [link](#) and for agencies download the form [here](#)
6. Share your stories and pictures by emailing [Community@ybs.co.uk](mailto:Community@ybs.co.uk)

Further details can be found on the Cause Collections intranet page [here](#), and more information will be shared with branch and agency colleagues via the Retail Network Weekly Updates.

### **We care about people**

Thank you in advance for your support of our cause collections. We know that many people might be struggling and affected by the current crisis including members and colleagues. Please

don't forget that if you need some support, take a look at this [help with the cost of living](#) article or the colleague [Financial Wellbeing support](#) pages on the intranet.