

2021 Annual JHC Support Service information for Parish Council meeting
February 2021

2021 summary

- * 483 clients seen this year 11% up on the previous year. We now have over 1900 clients on our database.
- * 964 bags of food given out, in 2020 it was 1294, demand did fall but that was expected. However, please note on an average year pre pandemic we gave out 350-400 bags.
- * We delivered over 150 Christmas hampers, similar number to last year. Just over £2,000 worth of Co-Op vouchers were also distributed.
- * Enquiry type – top enquiry is now grants. Benefits are second highest enquiry. Followed by housing & debt. Debt issues continue to rise at a worrying rate, 23% up on the previous year, we expect this to continue this year.
- * Individual grants given out were in excess of £35,000. Over one third of these grants were for help with utility bills. This year, with increased gas costs we are anticipating the figure to be even higher.
- * 66% of our clients were either disabled or had health issues.
- * 8 Children had counselling in Sawston primary Schools that was funded by JHC.

Other JHC info

Although our office opening hours do vary daily, as we can now work from home if necessary to avoid lone working in the office, we have remained open every single working day throughout the pandemic.

A preferred developer was chosen for Babraham Road land – Redrow - and the planning application process has started. JHC still hope to have 24 alms-houses built on the development.

We continue to work in partnership with other charities and organisations to access grants for those who live outside Sawston, these include Great Shelford Parochial Charity, Radley Charitable Trust, Duxford Parish Council, Nicolas Swallow Charity (Whittlesford), Pampisford Relief in Need and the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme.

Other agencies using our office has ceased. Relate came back for a few weeks but with the emergence of Omicron decided to suspend face to face until further notice. However, as we learn to live with covid, & government advice changes we expect this to change. However, it may never return to pre pandemic levels as some agencies clearly feel working remotely is more effective.

2022

So far this year our client numbers are virtually the same as last year. Lots of people worried about utilities & cost of food. We have given out 82 food bags, a lot less